

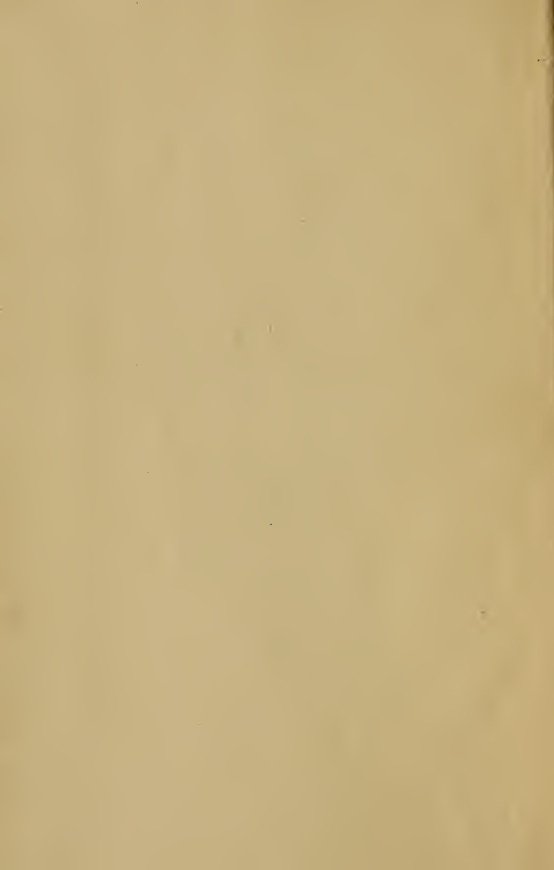




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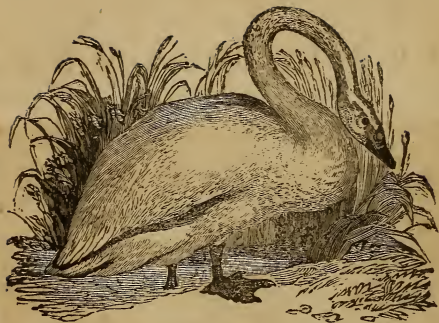


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WILD SWAN.



HARPY EAGLE.

A  
BOOK  
OF  
ORNITHOLOGY,  
FOR YOUTH.



EMBRACING DESCRIPTIONS OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND  
REMARKABLE BIRDS IN ALL COUNTRIES; WITH  
PARTICULAR NOTICES OF  
AMERICAN BIRDS.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

BOSTON.

WILLIAM HYDE, AND CO.

1832.



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☞ The publishers of this work have in a course of preparation a work on Quadrupeds, which is designed as a companion to it.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE study of nature, in all its various shapes and appearances, is one of the most interesting pursuits with which the mind can be occupied. To follow the operations of an almighty being, and trace the gradations of power from the unfolding of a simple bud, to the outspreading of the gorgeous firmament, is an exercise which cannot fail to elevate the thoughts and feelings of every human creature. Wherever he turns, the student of nature finds subjects to attract and fix his attention. The habits and manners of even the most common and domestic animals, the flight and song of the many tribes that fill the woods with their melody, and glad them with their beauty ; the rapid lightning ; the roar of the thunder ; the falling dew ; the formations of snow and ice ; the sight of green fields and running waters ; the shifting hues and shapes of the clouds ; the systems of the stars ; and the glory of the ever burning sun, giving light and heat and life to the myriad worlds that revolve around it with unerring regularity ; in the simplest as in the most sublime of these many mysteries, he finds a perpetual source of wonder, adoration and reverence.

Among the most attractive branches of the study of nature, is the study of the different tribes of birds; their forms, habits, manners of flight, building, powers of sight and smell, and the various instincts with which they have been endowed. This can be pursued either in the fields, where the living creatures are flitting and glancing before our eyes; or in the quiet chamber, by the cheerful fireside, in the beautiful descriptions which have been given to us by the great naturalists of Europe and America.

This little work is offered as an introduction to this attractive and useful study. It pretends to no other merit than that of being a correct compilation, generally from Buffon, Bewick or Wilson; though occasionally, it has been indebted to the recent beautiful work of Mr. Audubon, to which we have given credit whenever it has been consulted.

If it does anything towards cultivating an early taste for the beautiful science of which it treats, and by that means for the other branches of natural history, it will fully answer the purpose for which it is intended, and furnish a source of much innocent and lasting pleasure. For every thing in these studies is interesting, without causing an undue excitement that distracts the mind from the necessary duties and the common business of life. As it has been truly said, by a living poet whose works have secured to him a lasting fame, and whose love of the beautiful and sublime objects of creation, is as deep as can burn in the heart of man;

Nature speaks  
A parent's language, and in tones as mild  
As e'er hush'd infant on its mother's breast,  
Wins us to learn her lore!

A  
B O O K  
OF  
O R N I T H O L O G Y .

---

THE ROBIN.

WE shall first introduce to our reader the Robin, which is at once among the most familiar, and best beloved of all our birds. No sooner has the snow departed, than his cheerful voice is heard among the trees. He is so eager to return to the place of his birth, that he often comes to New England before the season of Spring is quite established, and is sometimes obliged to retire for shelter from snow storms, to the forests of New Jersey and Long Island.

The Robin builds his nest on an apple tree, plasters it on the inside with mud, and lines it with fine grass. His principal food consists of berries, worms and caterpillars. He is particularly partial to the berries of the sour gum. Wherever there is one of these trees covered with fruit, if there happen to be any Robins in the neighbourhood, the sportsman can find occupation for almost the whole day on a single spot.

When berries fail, they disperse themselves over the fields and along the fences in search of worms and insects. Sometimes they appear in great numbers. In January 1807, two young men in a single excursion shot thirty dozen. In the midst of a general destruction of them, which at that time was extended through the states, some humane person took advantage of a little circumstance, to put a stop to it. The fruit called poke-berries, when mellowed by the frost, forms a favourite repast of the Robin.



Their juice is of a beautiful crimson, and gives a deep colour to the whole stomachs of the birds. A paragraph appeared in the papers, intimating that these berries were poisonous, and that several persons had suffered by eating robins that had fed upon them. The strange appearance of the birds seemed to confirm this account, and they were permitted to fly about during the rest of the season, without finding any one willing to trouble them.

The Robin is one of our earliest songsters, and his notes are universally known and beloved. He is gentle and

confiding, almost always seeking shelter for his young in summer, and subsistence for himself in winter, near the habitations of men. His nest is held sacred even by the truant school-boy who would exult in plundering a jay or a cat bird. With the exception of the mocking bird, there is no native bird which is so frequently domesticated, agrees better with confinement, or sings in that state more pleasantly than the Robin.

This bird is found throughout all North America. It measures nine inches and a half in length, with the upper parts of the body black, and the breast of a dark orange. It retires from New England about the month of November, and takes up its residence for the winter in the more southern states. It belongs to the numerous tribe of thrushes, and is only found in America.

### THE FERRUGINOUS THRUSH.

THIS bird is eleven inches and a half long; the whole upper parts are of a bright reddish brown; lower parts yellowish white; the breast and sides are marked with pointed black spots, running in chains. The wings are crossed with two white bars.

He is the largest of all our thrushes, and from the tops of hedge-rows, apple or cherry trees, pours out a loud, various and charming song to the rising day. At this serene hour you may plainly distinguish his voice at half a mile's distance. These notes are not imitative, but solely his own. Early in May, he chooses a thorn-bush, low cedar, thicket of briers, or cluster of vines, for his nest. It is constructed of small sticks, dry leaves, and fine fibrous roots. His food consists of worms, caterpillars, beetles and berries. He is an active and vigorous bird, flying generally low,

from thicket to thicket, with his long broad tail spread out like a fan; he has a single note or chuck when you approach his nest. His bill is strong and powerful, and he



often in defence of his young, attacks the black snake with success. He inhabits North America from Canada to Florida; being the Brown Thrush, or Thrasher of the Middle and Eastern states, and the French Mocking Bird of Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. He is easily reared and becomes very familiar in confinement.

### THE CAT BIRD.

THE Cat Bird is about nine inches in length, of a deep slate colour, with red tail coverts. It is of the thrush



genus, and is a very common and numerous species in the United States, and well known to all classes of people. In spring or autumn, on approaching a thicket of brambles your first salutation is from the Cat Bird. His note would at first lead you to suppose that it was the cry of some bewildered kitten, that had lost her way, and wanted your assistance. He is unsuspicious and familiar, and builds his nest in the garden, as often as in the woods. The nest is composed of dry leaves, weeds, small twigs, and fine dry grass, lined with fibrous roots. The eggs are four or five, of a bluish green colour. The birds show no great solicitude for concealment, though few are more interested for the safety of their eggs and young.

The Cat Bird is a very early riser, and in no hurry to go to his nest, till it is almost dark. He is a very sprightly creature, and his notes are more remarkable for their singularity than their melody. They are made up of imitations of other birds and other sounds, the quaintest and oddest he has been able to collect. His pipe is rather deficient in clearness and strength of tone, yet he sometimes favours us with very agreeable and even beautiful passages, which he practises with great perseverance, being not at all embarrassed by the presence of a spectator. Upon the whole, he merits a place among the most agreeable of our *general* performers.

The farmer will not tell you quite so pleasant a story about this bird as the little fellow deserves. His partiality for cherries, strawberries and ripe pears is so very decided, and he has such a pretty taste in selecting the best of them for his own use, that he is the subject of a perpetual warfare. The boys hunt for his nest, and handle the eggs quite roughly. The farmer in fruit-time, fills his garden

with old hats, and revolutionary regimentals, but the Cat Bird is too knowing to be cheated in this way. The farmer is obliged at last to shoot at the intruders; and finds that this is the only effectual means of getting rid of their visits.



### THE MOCKING BIRD.

THIS bird is peculiar to the New World, and is most frequently found in those portions of it, where nature has strewn her bounties with the most lavish prodigality. It is in the rich blossoming fields and forests of Louisiana, that you should listen to the wonderful notes of the Mocking Bird.

In the beginning of April and sometimes a fortnight earlier, the Mocking Birds pair, and construct their nest. This is built in a solitary thorn-bush, an orange tree, a red cedar, a holly bush, and not unfrequently, within a small distance of a house, in a pear or apple tree, six or seven feet from the ground. It is carelessly constructed of dry twigs, weeds, straw, wool and tow, grasses and wood, and lined with fine fibrous roots disposed in a circular form.

While the female is sitting, neither cat, dog, animal nor man can approach the nest without being attacked

Different species of snakes prove very troublesome to these birds. They climb to their nests, and generally suck their eggs or swallow the young. But their most formida-



ble and mortal enemy is the black snake. Whenever this reptile is discovered, the male darts upon it with the rapidity of an arrow, dexterously eluding its bite, and striking it violently and incessantly against the head where it is very vulnerable. The snake soon becomes sensible of its danger and seeks to escape; but the intrepid bird re-

doubles his exertions, and seizes and lifts it up from the ground, beating it with his wings, and when the business is completed, he returns to his nest, mounts the summit of the bush, and pours out a torrent of song in token of victory.

The musical powers of this bird are the most wonderful in nature. Some naturalists have described the notes of the nightingale as occasionally equal to them; but Audubon having heard both species in confinement, and in the wild state, says that such a comparison is, in his opinion, quite absurd.

The Mocking Bird, according to Wilson, loses little of the power and energy of his song by confinement. In his domesticated state, when he commences his career of song, it is impossible to stand by uninterested. He whistles for the dog; Cæsar starts up, wags his tail, and runs to meet his master. He squeaks out like a hurt chicken; and the hen hurries about, with hanging wings and bristling feathers, clucking to protect her injured brood. The barking of the dog, the mewing of the cat, the creaking of the passing wheel-barrow, follow with great truth and rapidity. He repeats the tune taught him by his master, though of considerable length, fully and faithfully. He runs over the quiverings of the canary, and the clear whistlings of the Virginia nightingale, or red-bird, with such superior execution and effect, that the mortified songsters feel their own inferiority, and become silent, while he seems to triumph in their defeat by redoubling his exertions.

The variety of his song is incessant, and very capricious. His imitations of the brown thrush are interrupted by the crowing of cocks; and he mingles the warblings of the blue bird with the screaming of swallows and the cackling of hens. Now you listen to the simple melody of

the robin, now to the reiterations of the whippoorwill, and now to the notes of the blue jay, martin, oriole, and twenty others, so like the originals, that you can hardly dream that they come from the single admirable performer before you. Both in the fields and in the cage, he commences his delightful song at the rising of the moon, and continues during the solemn stillness of the night to make the whole neighbourhood resound with his inimitable music.

This bird, as well as the preceding, is of the thrush\* family; he is nine and a half inches long. He has a compressed, straight bill of moderate length, rather a slender neck and body, and a head of a corresponding size. His plumage is soft and well blended, with nothing in it gaudy or brilliant. The upper parts of the head, neck and back, are a dark brownish ash; the under parts are of a brownish white.

### RED WINGED STARLING.

THIS bird has been generally placed by naturalists among the Orioles, but Wilson thinks that it belongs more properly to the Stare genus. The male is nine inches long; the general colour is a glossy black, with the exception of the lesser wing coverts, which are nearly all of a rich scarlet. The legs and bill are of a glossy brownish black. The female is seven inches and a quarter in length; her whole upper plumage black, bordered with pale brown, white or bay; the lower parts thickly streaked with black and white, the latter inclining to cream colour on the breast.

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\*The robin, ferruginous thrush, cat bird, mocking bird, and many others in America and Europe are of the thrush genus.

These birds are migratory in the northern states, but are found during winter in immense flocks in Virginia, Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana; particularly, near the sea, and in the vicinity of rice and corn-fields. Sometimes they appear rising like an enormous black cloud carried before the wind, varying its shape every moment. Now they suddenly rise from the fields with a noise like thunder, their wings of the brightest vermillion, gleaming and



shifting in the bright sunshine with exquisite beauty. Then descending like a torrent, and covering the branches of the grove, the whole multitude burst out in one general chorus, filling the air with music. The entire winter season is with the red wings, a continued carnival. The profuse gleanings of the old rice, corn and buckwheat fields, supply them with abundant and nutritious food, and their leisure time is spent either in aerial manœuvres or in grand vocal performances.

About the 20th of March, or earlier, if the season be open, they begin to enter Pennsylvania in numerous, though small parties. Every meadow is soon enlivened with their presence. They continue to frequent the low borders of creeks, swamps and ponds, till about the middle of April, when they separate in pairs to begin looking after their nests. The spot chosen for this purpose is usually in a thicket of alder bushes, six or seven feet from the ground; sometimes in a solitary bush, in a meadow of high grass; and not unfrequently on the bare ground. The female lays five eggs, of a pale light blue, marked with very faint tinges of light purple, and long straggling lines and dashes of black. It is not uncommon to find several nests in the same thicket, within a few feet of each other.

Towards the middle of August, the young birds begin to fly in flocks by themselves; there being sometimes not more than two or three old males observed among many thousands. Before the beginning of September, these flocks have become quite numerous, and are exceedingly fond of the maize or Indian corn, which at that time of the year is very succulent and milky. They gather in huge multitudes, and pour down on the low countries like so many black clouds, driving and wheeling over the meadows and devoted corn-fields, darkening the air with their numbers.

The work of destruction is now begun. The closely wrapt leaves are soon completely torn off from the tender corn, and nothing is left but the cob and the shrivelled husks of the grain. All the havoc that the hawks, and the guns of the farmer can make at this time among them, has but little effect. When the hawks make a sweep into the flock, they suddenly open on all sides, but seldom with sufficient

rapidity to disappoint them of their victims; and though repeatedly fired at, they only remove from one field to an adjoining one, or to another quarter of the same enclosure. From dawn to nearly sunset, they carry on this impudent devastation, under the very eye of the farmer. Any considerable extent of corn would require at least half a dozen men with guns to guard it, and even then a good tithe of it would become the prey of the starlings. The Indians, who usually plant their corn in one general field, keep all the boys of the village patrolling round it with their bows and arrows, with which they contrive to destroy a great number of the plunderers.

Towards evening they alight in the marshes by millions, settling on the reeds and rushes close above the water. In some places, however, when the reeds become dry, the birds are liable to be treated very unfortunately. A party of gunners approach under cover of a dark night, and set fire to the reeds in several places at once. The whole field is enveloped in flame. The uproar among the birds becomes universal, and by the light of the conflagration they are shot down in vast numbers, while hovering and screaming over the place. Sometimes straw is used for the same purpose, which is strewn near the reeds and alder bushes where they are known to roost, and set on fire: great havoc ensues, and the party return by day, to pick up the slaughtered game.

The great range of country frequented by this bird, extends from Mexico on the south, to Labrador. When taken alive, or reared from the nest, it soon becomes familiar, bristling out its feathers, and singing with as much vigour as when at full liberty. The usual note of both male and female is a single *chuck*. They have been taught to articulate several words distinctly; and the male loses



little of the brilliancy of his plumage by confinement. This starling \* is known by several names; such as the Swamp Blackbird, Marsh Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Corn or Maize Thief. Its flesh is little esteemed.

### SPARROWS.

The SONG SPARROW is the most generally diffused over the United States; it is the most numerous of all our sparrows, and by far the earliest, sweetest, and most lasting songster. It is the first singing bird in spring. Its song continues occasionally during the whole summer and



fall, and is sometimes heard even in the depth of winter. The notes are short, but very sweet, and frequently repeated, from the branches of a bush or tree where it sits chanting for an hour together. It is fond of frequenting the borders of rivers, meadows, swamps and other watery places; and, if wounded and unable to fly, will readily take to the water and swim with considerable rapidity.

The Song Sparrow builds on the ground, under a tuft of

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\* The stare or starling genus embraces several other species.

grass, and forms its nest of fine dry grass lined with horse hair. It sometimes also builds in a cedar tree, five or six feet from the ground. It is six inches and a half long, and is of a chestnut colour, marked and streaked with dirty white; the breast is marked with pointed spots of chestnut.

THE CHIPPING SPARROW, though destitute of the musical talents of the preceding species, is perhaps more generally known, because more familiar and domestic. During the summer, he lives with man in cities, building in the branches of trees which ornament the streets and gardens. Towards the end of summer he takes to the fields and hedges, and at the fall of snow, he departs for the south. This little bird is five inches and a quarter long; the frontlet is black; crown, chestnut; the upper parts are variegated with black and chestnut, and the under parts pale ash.

THE FIELD SPARROW is the smallest of our sparrows. It is migratory, and is found in Pennsylvania early in April. It frequents dry fields covered with long grass, builds a small nest on the ground, lines it with horse hair, lays six eggs, and raises two or three brood in a season. It has no song, but a kind of chirruping like the chirpings of a cricket. It is five inches and a quarter long; its bill and legs are of a reddish cinnamon colour; its back streaked with black, drab and bright bay; its wings of a dusky black.

THE SWAMP SPARROW is five inches and a half long, with the neck and breast of a dark ash, the back black, slightly skirted with bay, wings and tail plain brown, hazle eyes, brown legs, and strong sharp claws. In summer it visits the northern states, but resorts in winter to the immense cypress swamps and extensive grassy flats of the south; the neighbourhood of the rich plantations

abounding with its favourite seeds and sustenance. It builds its nest on the ground, sometimes on a tussock of rank grass surrounded by water, and lays four eggs of a dirty white. Its principal food consists of grass seeds, wild oats and insects. The note of this bird is a single chip or *cheep*, uttered rather more hoarsely than that of the song sparrow.

THE WHITE THROATED SPARROW is the largest as well as the handsomest of all our sparrows. This species is particularly numerous in the neighbourhood of the Roanoke river, and among the rice plantations. In summer they retire to the higher inland parts of the country, and also far north to breed. During winter, they collect together in flocks, and frequent the borders of swampy thickets, creeks and mill ponds, skirted with alder-bushes and long rank weeds, on the seeds of which they chiefly subsist. The white throated sparrow is six inches and a half in length; the upper part of the back and the lesser wing-coverts are beautifully variegated with black, bay, ash and light brown; the breast, ash; tail, somewhat wedged; legs, flesh coloured; eye, hazel.

### PURPLE FINCH.

THIS is a bird of passage, proceeding south to Louisiana and the adjoining states during the cold weather, and returning north early in April. Great numbers of them however remain in Pennsylvania through the winter, feeding on the seeds of the poplar, button-wood, juniper, cedar, and the many rank weeds that flourish in rich bottoms, and along the margin of creeks. In spring, they frequent the elm trees, feeding on delicate buds, and cherry and apple blossoms till about the middle of May. They fly at a considerable height in the air, and their note is a

single *chink*. They possess great boldness and spirit, and when caught, bite violently, and hang by the bill from your hand, striking with great fury; but they are soon reconciled to confinement, and in a day or two are quite at home. They are very hardy and vigorous.

The male Purple Finch is six inches in length, with head, neck, back, breast and tail coverts of a dark crimson; bill short, strong, conical, and of a dusky horn colour;



wings and tail of a dusky black, edged with reddish. The female is nearly of the same size, of a brown olive or flaxen colour, streaked with dusky black; the breast is whitish, streaked with a light flax colour; tail and wings, as in the male, only edged with dull brown instead of red.

## INDIGO BIRD.

THIS rich-plumaged bird is found in all parts of the United States, from the shores of the Atlantic, to the borders of the great lakes. It is not a forest bird, but prefers to live about gardens, fields of deep clover, the skirts of woods, and road sides, where it is frequently seen perched upon the fences. In its manners it is very neat and active, and it is a vigorous and pretty songster. Its song is not one continued strain, but a repetition of short notes, commencing loud and rapid, and falling almost imperceptibly for six or eight seconds till they seem hardly articulate, and then recommencing as before. Some birds sing only in the spring, and then chiefly in the morning, but the indigo bird chants at all hours of the day, and continues his song till the middle or end of August. When alarmed by an approach to his nest, his usual note is a sharp chip.

Notwithstanding his beauty, his vivacity, and the ease with which he can be reared and kept, the Indigo Bird is seldom seen domesticated. His nest is usually built in a low bush among rank grass, grain or clover; composed outwardly of flax and lined with fine dry grass. The eggs, generally five, are blue; with a blotch of purple at the great end.

This bird is five inches long; the whole body is of a rich sky blue, deepening on the head, and tinged with purple; the wings are black, edged with light blue, and becoming brownish towards the tips. There is a singularity in its plumage which occasions it in certain lights to appear of a beautiful blue, and in others of a vivid green; so that in passing from one place to another before your eyes, it seems to undergo a total change of colour. The female is of a light flaxen colour, with the wings dusky black, and the whole lower parts of a clay colour, tinged in several places with bluish. The usual

food of this species, consists of insects and various kinds of seed.

### AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.

THIS bird is four inches and a half in length, and is of a rich lemon-yellow. The wings and tail are black, the former tipt and edged with white; the fore part of the head is black, the bill and legs of a reddish cinnamon colour. This is the summer dress of the male, but in September the yellow gradually changes to a brown olive, and the male and female are then nearly alike. They build a very delicate and beautiful nest, which they fasten to the twigs of an apple or pear tree, or a Lombardy poplar. This is formed of various lichens, glued together with saliva, and lined with soft downy substances. The female lays five white eggs, faintly marked at the greater end; and two broods are generally raised in a season. The males do not arrive at their perfect plumage until the succeeding spring; in April, however, they begin to change their winter dress, and before the middle of May appear in brilliant yellow.

The song of this bird, which is commonly called the Yellow-Bird, is so weak as to seem to proceed from a considerable distance, when perhaps the bird is perched on the tree over your head. Its flight is not direct, but in alternate risings and sinkings, attended with a kind of twitter at each successive impulse of the wings.

"In ascending along the shores of the Mohawk river," says Audubon, "in the month of August, I have met more of these pretty birds in the course of a days walk, than any where else, and wherever a thistle was to be seen along either bank of the New-York Canal, it was ornamented with one or more Goldfinches. They tear up the down and petals of the ripening flowers with ease, lean-

ing downwards upon them, eat off the seed and allow the down to float in the air. The remarkable plumage of the male, as well as its song, are at this season very agreeable; and so familiar are these birds, that they suffer you to approach within a few yards, before they leave the plant on which they are seated. For a considerable space along the Genessee river, the shores of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and even Lake Superior, I have always seen many of them in the latter part of summer. They have then a decided preference for the vicinity of water."

"It is an extremely hardy bird, and often remains the whole winter in the middle states, although never in great numbers. When deprived of liberty, it will live to a great age in a room or cage. I have known two instances in which a bird of this species had been confined for upwards of ten years. They were procured in the market of New York when in mature plumage, and had been caught in trap-cages. One of them having undergone the severe training, more frequently inflicted in Europe than America, and known in France by the name of *galerien*, would draw water for its drink from a glass, it having a little chain attached to a narrow belt of soft leather fastened round its body, and another equally light chain fastened to a little bucket kept by its weight in the water, until the little fellow raised it up with its bill, placed a foot upon it, and pulled again at the chain until it reached the desired fluid and drank, when, on letting go, the bucket immediately fell into the glass below. In the same manner, it was obliged to draw towards its bill a little chariot filled with seeds; and in this distressing occupation, was doomed to toil through a life of solitary grief, separated from its companions, who were wantoning on the wild flowers and procuring their food in the manner in which nature had taught them."

The same eminent naturalist mentions a very remarkable trait of sagacity in this bird. When a Goldfinch alights on a twig imbued with bird-lime expressly for the purpose of securing it, it no sooner discovers the nature of the treacherous substance, than it throws itself backwards, with closed wings, and hangs in this position until the bird-lime has run out in the form of a slender thread considerably below the twig, when it beats its wings and flies away. It has been observed that Goldfinches which have escaped in this manner, when about to alight on any twig, whether smeared with bird-lime or not, flutter over it, as if to assure themselves of its being safe for them to perch upon.

### CANARY BIRD.

THIS bird has now become so common, and has continued so long in a domestic state, that its native habits, as well as its native country, seem almost forgotten. Though it would appear from the name that these birds came originally from the Canary Islands, yet many of them are found in Germany, where they are bred in great numbers, and sold into different parts of Europe.

In its beautiful native islands, the Canary Bird is of a dusky gray colour, and so different from those usually seen in Europe, that some have even doubted whether it be of the same species. In northern countries they have a great variety of colouring; some are white, some mottled, some beautifully shaded with green: but they are more esteemed for their note than their beauty, having a high piercing pipe, continuing it for some time in one breath without intermission, then raising it higher and higher by degrees, with great variety.



The Canary Finch is a social and familiar bird, and capable of contracting an attachment for the person to whom it belongs. It will perch on the shoulder of its mistress, and peck its food from her hand or her mouth. It is also very apt in learning extraordinary feats. In 1820, a Frenchman exhibited four and twenty Canary Birds in London, many of which he said were from eighteen to twenty-five years of age. Some of these balanced themselves, head downward, on their shoulders, having their legs and tail in the air. One of them, taking a slender stick in its claws, passed its head between its legs, and suffered itself to be turned round, as if in the act of being roasted. Another balanced itself, and was slung backward and forward on a kind of slack rope. A third was dressed in military uniform, having a cap on its head, wearing a sword and pouch, and carrying a firelock in one claw; after sometime sitting upright, this bird, at the word of command, freed itself from its dress, and flew away to the cage. A fourth suffered itself to be shot at, and falling down as if dead, to be put into a little wheelbarrow, and wheeled away by one of its comrades; and several of the birds were at the same time placed upon a little firework, and continued there quietly and without alarm till it was discharged.

The following anecdote of one of these birds is related by Dr. Darwin; "On observing a Canary Bird at the house of a gentleman near Sudbury, in Derbyshire, I was told it always fainted away when its cage was cleaned; and I desired to see the experiment. The cage being taken from the ceiling and the bottom drawn out, the bird began to tremble, and turned quite white about the root of the bill; he then opened his mouth as if for breath and respired quick; stood up straighter on his perch, hung his wing,

spread his tail, closed his eyes and appeared quite stiff for half an hour, till at length with trembling, and deep respirations, he came gradually to himself."

### ENGLISH LINNET.

THIS bird which is much admired for its sweet singing, is five inches and a half in length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail; the bill is a bluish grey; the eyes are hazel; the upper parts of the head, neck and back are of a dark reddish brown, the edges of the feathers pale; the under parts of a dirty reddish white; and the tail, which is somewhat forked, is brown, with white edges.

The Linnet is so much esteemed for the sweetness of his singing, that, by many persons, he is thought to excel all small birds. He has certainly a curiously fine note of his own, and may be taught to pipe or whistle the song of any other bird; but as his own is so good, that trouble is unnecessary. He is very apt in learning, and if brought up from the nest, will take the woodlark's or canary bird's song to perfection. In some instances he has been said to pronounce words with distinctness.

These birds commonly build in a thick bush, or hedge, and sometimes among bushes and furze, making a small, pretty nest; the outside of dried weeds and straw, and the inside of a fine soft wool mixed with down stuff, and a few horse hairs, made exceedingly neat and warm. They are particularly fond of linseed, from which it is supposed they derive their name.



## WIDOW FINCH.

THE name of this bird originated in a whimsical mistake, but has been retained by all naturalists. The first writer by whom it was described, stated that it was called 'widow' by the Portuguese on account of its colour and long train. He afterwards learned that it was called the whidah bird, because it was frequently brought to Lisbon from the Kingdom of Whidah, on the coast of Africa.

These birds have much of the manners of the Linnets, and an organization almost completely similar. In captivity, they are lively and active, jumping from perch to perch, and alternately raising and depressing their long tails with much vivacity. They are fed upon grain and green herbs,

and are fond of bathing in the water which is placed in their cage. Twice a year they are subject to entire changes of plumage.

The male, in his summer dress, is of a bright black, with a chesnut band half surrounding the back of the neck; the breast is of a reddish brown, and the under parts are nearly white. It has four lengthened quills to the tail, the two longest of which measure nearly twelve inches. During the winter, its head is variegated with black and white, its breast and back are of a dull orange covered with dusky spots, and its under parts are dirty white. The younger females differ but little in colour from the winter dress of the males.

The Widow Birds\* are natives of Africa, and are found in various parts of its western coast, from Senegal to Angola.

### EUROPEAN LARK. •

THIS bird is found in almost every part of Europe. Its length is about seven inches, and the stretch of the wings about thirteen. Its general colour is brown, mottled with darker brown, and edged in some places with a brownish yellow. The bill, legs and claws are light brown, the claws and point of the bill darker than the rest. The eyes are full and bright, and have a yellowish streak above each of them, somewhat resembling an eye-brow. The principal difference in the sexes is, that the female is rather smaller and paler in colour than the male, that the posterior claw is not so long in proportion, and that the white on the tip and exterior edge of the outer tail-feathers is not so conspicuous.

This bird is remarkable for its gracefulness, whether on the ground or on the wing. There is a peculiar formation

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\* The Sparrows, Finches, Indigo bird, Goldfinch, Canary bird, Linnets, and many others are of the Finch genus, which contains more than 100 species.

in its feet, which gives it a great facility in running along a rough surface : and in confinement it will not sing till its cage is carpeted with a bit of turf. The same formation assists it very much in vaulting perpendicularly into the air, so that it can spring clear of the grass, though tall enough to conceal it when running, without touching a blade with its wings. This peculiarity is very serviceable to it in concealing its nest.

This is built on the earth without a tuft or shrub to hide it. The nest is a simple one, but constructed with a good deal of care. The outside is of small twigs, bits of creep-



ing roots and coarse grass ; the interior of softer grasses sometimes mixed with long hair. The eggs are seldom more in one brood than four or five ; their colour is greenish white, spotted with olive brown.

As the lark does not hop, the young remain a considerable time in the nest, and consume a great deal of food, which consists chiefly of earth-worms and insects. Their double and triple broods, the great attention which they pay to them, and the number of hours which the male de-

votes daily for so many months to singing, make the life of the lark one of great activity till about the beginning of September. Family cares are by that time at an end, and the bird has nothing to do but to feed and grow fat. Great numbers of them are caught in some of the midland counties of England, and bring in the London market from three to four shillings a pound.

"This bird," says an English naturalist, "is the very emblem of freedom: floating in the air, with spreading tail and outstretched wings, and moving its little head delightedly, first to one side, then to the other, as if it would communicate its joy around, it at last soars to such an elevation, that, if visible at all, it is a mere dark speck in the blue vault of heaven; and, carolling over the young year, or the young day, while all is bustle and activity, the airy wildness of the song makes its whole character more peculiar and striking."

### MEADOW LARK.

THIS bird has not the musical powers of the sky-lark of Europe, but in richness of plumage as well as in sweetness of voice, as far as his few notes extend, he is much superior. The species is found in Canada, and throughout the United States. Their favourite places of retreat are pasture fields and meadows, and they are rarely or never seen in the depth of the woods. For size and delicacy, they are generally considered but little inferior to the quail, or what is here sometimes called the partridge.

The flight of these birds is laborious and steady, sailing and renewing the rapid action of the wings alternately. When they alight on trees or bushes, it is generally on the tops of the highest branches, from which they send forth a long, clear and somewhat melancholy note, that

in sweetness and tenderness is unsurpassed by any of our numerous warblers. This is sometimes followed by a kind of low, rapid chattering. The nest of this species is built, generally, in or below a thick tuft of grass; it is composed of dry grass, and fine bent laid at the bottom, and wound all around, leaving an arched entrance level with the ground; the inside is lined with fine stalks of the same materials, disposed with great regularity. The eggs are four, sometimes five, white, marked with specks, and several large blotches of reddish brown,



The length of this bird \* is ten inches and a half: the upper parts are variegated with black, bright bay and pale ochre, the under parts are yellow. The tail is wedged, with neatly pointed feathers; the legs and feet are very large and of a pale flesh colour. An oblong crescent, of deep velvety black, ornaments the lower part of the throat.

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\* There are several other Larks, both in Europe and America, beside those we have described. The genus embraces about 28 species.

## RICE BUNTING. \*

THIS is the *Boblink* of the eastern and northern states, and the *Rice* and *Reed-Bird* of Pennsylvania and the southern states. Though a troublesome bird to the planters, he



has three good qualities that entitle him to our notice ; his plumage is beautiful, his song highly musical, and his flesh excellent.

Wilson supposes the winter residence of this species to extend from Mexico to the mouth of the Amazon. Early in May they arrive within the southern boundaries of the United States, and by the middle of the month make their

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\* The Bunting genus are distinguished by a strong conic bill, and a hard knob to break and grind seeds, in the roof of the upper mandible. There are several species besides those we have described.



appearance in the lower parts of Pennsylvania. While here, the males are extremely gay and full of song; frequenting meadows, newly ploughed fields, sides of creeks, rivers and watery places, and feasting largely on May-flies and caterpillars. By the twentieth of the month they disappear on their way to the north.

The nest of this bird is constructed of dry leaves and coarse grass, and is fixed in the ground, generally in a field of grass. The female lays five eggs of a bluish white, marked with numerous irregular spots of blackish brown. The song of the male, while the female is sitting, is singular and very agreeable. Some idea may be formed of it by striking the high keys of a piano-forte at random, singly and quickly, making as many sudden contrasts of high and low notes as possible. Many of the notes are charming, but they succeed each other so rapidly that the ear can hardly separate them.

As soon as their young are able to fly, these birds collect together in great multitudes, and pour down upon the devoted oat fields of New-England. About the middle of August they revisit Pennsylvania on their route to winter quarters. At this time they find such an abundance of nutritious food, from the reeds or wild oats, that they become extremely fat, and are supposed by some of our epicures to equal the famous ortolans of Europe. The report of musketry along the reedy shores of the Schuylkill and Delaware is at this season incessant, and almost every stall of the Philadelphia market is ornamented with strings of reed birds.

The Rice Bunting is seven inches and a half long. His tail is formed like that of the woodpecker genus, and is often used in the same manner, being thrown in to sup-

port it while ascending the stalks of the reed. In the spring he is black; in June this colour changes to a brownish yellow.

### COW BUNTING.

The most remarkable trait in the character of this species, is the practice of dropping its eggs into the nests of other birds, and thus entirely abandoning its progeny to the care of strangers. More than two thousand years ago, it was well known that the cuckoo of Europe never built herself a nest, but dropt her eggs in the nests of other birds; but no other instance of the same uniform habit has been found to exist, until discovered in the bird now before us. The circumstances, by which Wilson first became acquainted with this peculiar habit of the bird, are thus related by him:—

“I had, in numerous instances, found in the nests of three or four particular species of birds, one egg much larger and differently marked from those beside it. I had remarked that these odd-looking eggs were all of the same colour, and marked nearly in the same manner, in whatever nest they lay; though frequently the eggs beside them were of a quite different tint; and I had also been told, in a vague way, that the Cowbird laid in other birds’ nest. At length I detected the female of this very bird in the nest of the red-eyed flycatcher, which nest is very small and very singularly constructed. Suspecting her purpose, I cautiously withdrew without disturbing her; and had the satisfaction to find on my return, that the egg which she had just dropt corresponded as nearly as eggs of the same species usually do, in its size, tint and markings, to those formerly taken notice of. Since that time, I have found the young Cow Bunting, in many instances, in the

nests of one or other of these small birds ; I have seen these last followed by the young Cow Bird calling out clamourously for food, and often engaged in feeding it ; and I have now, in a cage before me, a very fine one, which, six months ago, I took from the nest of a Maryland yellow-throat."

This bird never deposits more than one egg in a nest, although it is probable from the vast number of the species, that it thus leaves several in different nests. It does not make a forcible entrance, but watches its chance and slips in when it finds a nest deserted by its occupants. This intrusion is not at all agreeable. When the female returns and finds in her nest an egg different from her own she immediately darts off, and perching on a bough in the neighbourhood, continues chattering till she has called her mate to share in her sorrow. But notwithstanding they thus make a violent show of resenting the insult, they very seldom desert the nest.

The migrations of these birds extend very far north. In their passage they are frequently observed loitering singly about solitary thickets, reconnoitring no doubt for proper nurses, to whose care they may commit their young. Among the birds selected for this purpose are the red-eyed and white-eyed fly-catchers, the chipping sparrow, the golden-crowned thrush, the blue bird, the small blue gray fly-catcher and the yellow-throat. The yellow-throat and the red-eyed fly-catcher appear to be particular favourites ; and the kindness and attention, which these two little birds pay to their nurslings, justify the partiality of the parents.

The Cow Bunting is seven inches long, the head and neck are of a very deep silky drab ; the upper part of the breast is a dark changeable violet ; the rest of the bird is black, glossed with green. The young male birds are at first

altogether brown, but in about three months after leaving the nest, they attain their complete plumage.

### TOWHE BUNTING.

THIS is a very common and humble species, frequenting close-sheltered thickets, where it spends most of its time in scratching up the leaves for worms, and often suffers a person to walk round the bush or thicket where it is at work without betraying any signs of alarm. At times, the male mounts to the top of a small tree, and chants his few simple notes for an hour at a time. The nest of this bird is large and substantial, fixed on the ground among the dry leaves, near and sometimes under a thicket of briars. The eggs are usually five, of a pale flesh colour, thickly marked with specks of rufous.

This bird rarely winters north of the State of Maryland, retiring from Pennsylvania to the south about the middle of October. He is generally very plump and fat, and when confined in a cage soon becomes familiar. In Virginia he is called the Bulfinch, in other places, the Towhe Bird, the Chewink and the Swamp Robin.

The Towhe Bunting is eight inches and a half long; the upper parts are black, the lower parts white; the tail is long, nearly even at the end; the legs and feet are of a dirty flesh colour, and quite strong. The eye changes in colour, the iris being sometimes white and at other times red.

### CARDINAL GROSBEEK. \*

THIS is one of our most common cage birds, and is generally known both in North America, and even in Europe,

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\* The grosbeaks are generally shy and solitary, living chiefly in the woods at a distance from the habitations of man. Their

where great numbers of them have been carried. In England they are usually called Virginia Nightingales. To this name, Dr. Latham observed, they are fully entitled from the clearness and variety of their notes, which both in a wild and domestic state are very various and musical. Many of them resemble the high notes of a fife, and are nearly as loud.



The nest of this bird is very often fixed in a holly, cedar or laurel bush. It is constructed of small twigs, tops of dry weeds, and slips of vine bark, and lined with stalks

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vocal powers are indifferent. The most conspicuous characteristics of the genus are the thickness and strength of the bill, which enable them to break the stones of various kinds of fruit. Of this genus there are nearly one hundred species.

of fine grass. The female lays four eggs, thickly marked all over with touches of brownish olive on a dull white ground. These birds are easily taken in trap-cages, and soon domesticated; with proper care, they will live to a considerable age. They are hardy, sing six or eight months in the year, and are most lively in wet weather.

The males of the Cardinal Grosbeak, when confined together in a cage, fight violently. On placing a looking-glass before the cage, the gesticulations of the tenant are truly laughable; yet, he soon becomes so well acquainted with the image as to disregard it altogether.

This species is eight inches long; the whole upper parts are a dull dusky red, except the sides of the neck and head, which, as well as the whole lower parts, are bright vermillion. The head is ornamented with a high pointed crest; the bill is of a brilliant coralline colour, very thick and powerful; the legs and feet are of a light clay colour. The female is smaller than the male, and has the upper parts of a brownish olive: and, what is very peculiar to this species, she often sings nearly as well as her partner. The sprightly figure and gaudy plumage of the Cardinal Grosbeak, his vivacity, strength of voice and actual variety of note, and the little expense with which he is kept, will always make him a favourite.

### ENGLISH WAGTAIL.

Of the Wagtail there are about eleven species; in England only the white, the yellow, and gray are common. The White Wagtail is an elegant, slender bodied bird, and next to the robin and sparrow, is most familiar with man. It weighs about six drachms, and is about seven inches and a half from the bill to the end of the tail. It has a slender, straight, sharp bill, of a black or dusky colour,

upwards of an inch long: the circles of the eyes are brown, or hazel-coloured, with a large white spot encircling each eye; and one or two more under it, on each side of the throat; the top of the head and the fore part of the neck, or throat, and the upper part of the back are all black.

The Wagtails are very lively birds, run with great rapidity, fly in short but swift jerks, and the continual motion of the tail gives them more apparent activity than they in reality possess. They are familiar little creatures and perch upon the tops of cottages, and alight close by the larger animals, or by man without fear; and there are instances of fishers with worms, angling for a trout, and catching a Wagtail. In the fields that are near water, they join in the farm labour. They follow the plough and the harrow, and mingle with the rooks in picking up the worms and insects that these unearth.

The note of the Wagtail is feeble, but not unpleasant. In the construction of their nest, they are tolerably neat and careful. This is generally placed in some sort of concealment, near the bank of a stream, among stones, or in thick bushes. It is made of moss, grass and fibrous roots, well lined with hair, wool and feathers, so as to be very soft and warm. The eggs are greyish white, speckled with brown, and they are commonly four or five in number; but it is said that, by removing one egg at a time, the same female has been made to lay as many as thirty. The parent birds are very much attached to their nests and their young; and, if they are plundered, closely pursue the spoiler with angry cries.

## NIGHTINGALE. \*

THIS most famous of the feathered tribe, visits England in the beginning of April, and leaves it in September. It is a delicate bird, equally shunning the fen and the mountain; as if the air of the one were too cold, and that of the other too impure for it. Lofty woods, by clear waters, among rich meadows and fields, where there is an exuberance of vegetation, and where it can find ample stores of



food, are the favourite haunts of the Nightingale. Here it sings its song, rears its brood in the closest concealment and with the most tender care, and when it has thus accomplished the grand object of its visit, retires with the same quietness as it came.

The nest of the Nightingale is a very simple structure. It is built upon the ground, under a thick bush or hedge,

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\* The genus of warblers embrace upwards of one hundred and fifty species, most of them distinguished for the excellence of their music. The Nightingale ranks at the head of these, and after it the Red Breast, Wren and Blue Bird, are among the most interesting.



or if upon a tree, it is on the very lowest part of one that is branched down to the ground: and thus, though safe from birds of prey, it often falls a sacrifice to weasels and polecats. It is formed of dry leaves, lined with withered grass; the female lays five eggs, of a colour made up of brown, yellow and green.

The male brings food to the mother, and occasionally relieves her in the nest till the young come out of the shell, when both parents feed them with the greatest assiduity. Smooth caterpillars, and some of the saw-flies, are understood to be the principal nutriment of the young; and the slender bills of the old ones are well adapted for taking the former out of their folds, or the latter out of their holes and crevices. When food is found very near the nest, the birds carry the caterpillars one by one in the point of their bills; but when they make a more distant excursion, they fill the whole mouth. This assiduous feeding lasts for about two weeks; at the end of which the young birds, though they cannot fly far, are said to hop from twig to twig and partially procure food. When fully fledged, the male leads them out where they can find food for themselves.

The Nightingale is the largest of the warblers, being seven inches in length, between ten and eleven in the extent of the wings, and weighing about three-quarters of an ounce. Its colours are plain and simple, and without any decided markings. The upper part is deep brown, with a shade of yellow, the sides of the neck, the breast and the flanks are grey; the throat white, and the tail pale brown, with a shade of orange.

The fame of this bird's music, has induced many to abridge its liberty in order to enjoy it. Its song, however, in captivity is not very alluring, and the tyranny of taking

it from those hedges, where only it is most pleasing, still more depreciates its imprisoned efforts. Gesner assures us that it is not only the most agreeable songster in a cage, but that it is possessed of a most admirable faculty of talking. He tells the following story which he says was communicated to him by a friend, who must have had a great portion of imagination, and quite a pretty turn for embellishment.

"Whilst I was at Ratisbon," says his correspondent, "I put up at an inn, the sign of the Golden Crown, where my host had three Nightingales. It happened at that time, being the spring of the year, when those birds are accustomed to sing, that I was so afflicted with the stone, that I could sleep but very little all night. It was usual then, about midnight, to hear the two Nightingales jangling and talking with each other, and plainly imitating men's discourses. Besides repeating the daily discourse of the guests, they chanted out two stories. One of their stories was concerning the tapster and his wife, who refused to follow him to the wars as he desired her; for the husband endeavoured to persuade his wife, as far as I understood by the birds, that he would leave his service in that inn, and go to the wars in hopes of plunder. But she refused to follow him, resolving to stay either at Ratisbon, or go to Nuremberg. There was a long and earnest contention between them; and all this dialogue the birds repeated. They even repeated the unseemly words which were cast out between them, and which ought rather to have been suppressed and kept a secret. The other story was concerning the war which the emperor was then threatening against the Protestants; which the birds probably heard from some of the generals that had conferences in the house. These things did they repeat in the night after

twelve o'clock, when there was a deep silence. But in the day time, for the most part they were silent, and seemed to do nothing but meditate and revolve with themselves upon what the guests conferred together as they sat at table, or in their walks."

### THE RED BREAST.

THOUGH the Red Breast is generally admired for his song, he is still more admired for his confiding attachment to mankind. In all the countries of Europe he is a favourite, and has what may be called a pet name. The Norwegians call him *Peter Ronsmed*, the Germans *Thomas Gierdet*, and in England he is known as Robin Red Breast, or by the still more familiar appellation of Bob. Buffon describes the winter manners of this bird with his usual elegance. "In that season they visit our dwellings, and seek the warmest and most sheltered situations; and if any one happens still to continue in the woods, it becomes the companion of the faggot maker, cherishes itself at his fire, pecks at his bread, and flutters the whole day round him, chirping its slender *pip*. But when the cold grows more severe, and thick snow covers the ground, it approaches our houses, and taps at the windows with its bill, as if to entreat an asylum, which is cheerfully granted; it repays the favour by the most amiable familiarity, gathering the crumbs from the table, distinguishing affectionately the people of the house, and assuming a warble, not indeed so rich as that in the spring, but more delicate. This it retains through all the rigours of the season, to hail each day the kindness of its host, and the sweetness of its retreat."

The bill of the Red Breast is slender and delicate; its eyes are large, dark, and expressive, and its aspect mild;

its head and all the upper parts of its body are brown, tinged with a greenish olive ; the neck and breast are of a fine deep reddish orange ; a spot of the same colour marks its forehead ; its belly is whitish, and the legs and feet of a dusky black. It is near six inches in length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail.

This bird, in England, is said to have a sweeter song than any other. The notes of the other birds are indeed louder, and their inflections more capricious ; but the voice of the Red Breast is soft, tender and well supported, and the more valued as it is enjoyed the greatest part of the winter. During the spring, this bird haunts the wood, the grove and the garden, and retires to the thickest and shadiest hedgerows to breed in, where its nest is usually placed among the roots of trees, in some concealed spot near the ground. The female lays from five to seven eggs, of a dull white colour, diversified with reddish streaks.

### AMERICAN HOUSE WREN.

THIS familiar little gossip builds its nest under the eaves of a dwelling house, or in a hollow cherry tree ; but most commonly in small boxes, fixed on the top of a pole, in or near the garden, to which he is extremely partial for its constant supplies of caterpillars and insects. If all these conveniences are wanting, he will put up with an old hat nailed on the weather boards, with a small hole for entrance ; and if even this be denied him, he will find some hole, corner, or crevice about the house, barn, or stable, rather than abandon the dwellings of man.

In the month of June, a mower once hung up his coat under a shed, near the barn ; two or three days elapsed before he had occasion to put it on again ; thrusting his arm up the

sleeve, he found it completely filled with rubbish, and on extracting the mass, found it to be the nest of a Wren completely finished and lined with a large quantity of feathers. In his retreat he was followed by the forlorn little proprietors, who scolded him with great vehemence, for thus interfering with their household economy. The twigs with which the outward parts of the nest are constructed, are short and crooked, that they may the better hook in with one another. The entrance is so much shut up to prevent the intrusion of snakes or cats, that it appears almost impossible the body of the bird could be admitted: within, is a layer of fine dried stalks of grass and feathers. The eggs are six or seven, and sometimes nine, of a red purplish flesh colour.

This little bird has a strong antipathy to cats, in relation to which Mr. Wilson tells the following anecdote. "A box fixed up in the window of the room where I slept, was taken possession of by a pair of Wrens. Already the nest was built, and two eggs laid, when one day, the window being open, as well as the room door, the female Wren, venturing too far into the room to reconnoitre, was sprung upon by grimalkin, who had planted herself there for the purpose; and before relief could be given was destroyed. Curious to see how the survivor would demean himself, I watched him carefully for several days. At first he sang with great vivacity for an hour or so, but, becoming uneasy, went off for half an hour; on his return, he chanted again as before, went to the top of the house, stable and weeping willow, that she might hear him; but seeing no appearance of her, he returned once more, visited the nest, ventured cautiously into the window, gazed about with suspicious looks, his voice sinking to a low melancholy note, as he stretched his little neck about in every direction. Re-

turning to the box, he seemed for some minutes at a loss what to do, and soon after went off, as I thought, altogether, for I saw him no more that day. Towards the afternoon of the second day, he again made his appearance, accompanied with a new female, who seemed exceedingly timorous and shy, and who, after great hesitation entered the box; at this moment the little widower, or bridegroom, seemed as if he would warble out his very life with ecstasy of joy. After remaining about half a minute, they both flew off, but returned in a few minutes, and instantly began to carry out the eggs, feathers and some of the sticks, supplying the place of the two latter with materials of the same sort; and ultimately succeeded in raising a brood of seven young, all of which escaped in safety."

The House Wren inhabits the whole of the United States, and in every part is migratory. It is four inches and a half long, the whole upper parts are of a deep brown, crossed with black, except the head and neck which are plain. The legs and feet are of a light clay colour; the whole plumage below the surface is bluish ash. The female differs very little in plumage from the male.

### ENGLISH WREN.

THIS lilliputian songster is a native of every part of Europe. It weighs only three drachms, is but four inches in length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, and is admired for the loudness of its note, compared with the little body whence it issues. It will carol forth its strains unconcerned during a fall of snow. Even when confined in a cage it has sometimes been known to sing as strong as in its native fields, and with equal freedom and mellowness of song. It commonly creeps about the hedge trees, in the vicinity of farm yards, and sings

very late in the evening. The female lays from ten to eighteen eggs, which are very small, white, and sprinkled with red spots.

The Wren constructs its nest in a very curious manner. Unlike other birds, it does not begin first at the bottom. If the nest be placed against a bank, it commences the fabric at the top; if against a tree, it traces the outline on the bark, and closes the side and top in succession. When it builds against a hayrick, the exterior of the nest is of that material; when it is on the side of a tree covered with white lichen, or green moss, the fabric is of one or other of those substances; but the interior is uniformly lined with feathers.

## THE BLUE BIRD.



THIS bird in his motions and general character bears a great resemblance to the robin red-breast of Britain; and, had he the brown olive of that bird, instead of his own blue, could hardly be distinguished from him. Like him he is known to almost every child; and shows as much confidence in man by associating with him in summer, as the

other by his familiarity in winter. He is also of a mild and peaceful disposition, seldom quarrelling with other birds. His society is courted by the inhabitants of the country, and few farmers neglect to provide for him, in some suitable place, a snug little summer-house, ready fitted and rent free. For this he more than sufficiently repays them by the cheerfulness of his song, and the multitude of injurious insects which he daily destroys.

Though generally accounted a bird of passage, yet as early as the middle of February, if the weather be open, he makes his appearance about his old haunts, the barn, orchard and fence posts. Storms and deep snows sometimes succeeding, he for a time disappears; but about the middle of March is again seen, accompanied by his mate, visiting the box in the garden, or the hole in the old apple tree, the cradle of some generations of his ancestors. The spot being fixed on, they begin to clean out the old nest, and the rubbish of the former year and to prepare for the reception of their future offspring.

The female lays five, and sometimes six eggs, of a pale blue colour; and raises two and sometimes three brood in a season; the male taking the youngest under his particular care while the female is again sitting. Their principal food consists of the hard-shelled insects that lurk among old and decayed trees. They are also very fond of spiders. In the fall they occasionally regale themselves on the berries of the sour gum; and as winter approaches, on those of the red cedar, and on the fruit of a rough hairy vine that runs up and cleaves fast to the trunks of trees.

The usual spring and summer song of the Blue Bird is a soft, agreeable, and oft-repeated warble, uttered with open quivering wings, and extremely pleasing. Towards fall his song changes to a single plaintive note, as he passes



over the many-coloured woods ; and his melancholy air recalls to our minds the approaching decay of the face of nature. Even after the trees are stript of their leaves, he still lingers over his native fields ; and with every occasional return of mild weather during the winter, we are solaced with his mournful song.

The Blue Bird is six inches and three quarters in length, with remarkably full and broad wings ; the whole upper parts are of a rich sky blue, with purple reflections ; the bill and legs are black ; throat, neck, breast and sides chestnut ; wings, dusky black at the tips. The female is easily distinguished by the duller cast of the back. This species is found over the whole United States ; in the Bahama Islands, where many of them winter ; as also in Mexico, Brazil and Guiana.



### THE BARN SWALLOW \*

THE Barn Swallows are dispersed very generally over the country on the east side of the great range of the Alleghany. Early in May they begin to build. From the

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\* The Swallow genus comprehends about 37 species. All of them have short bills, broad at the bent, small at the point and slightly curved. Their tongue is short, broad and cloven,

size and structure of the nest, it is nearly a week before it is completely finished. It is in the form of an inverted cone, and placed up against a rafter in the barn. It is formed of mud, mixed with hay, and is then stuffed with fine hay and an handful of large downy geese feathers; the eggs are five, white, speckled and spotted all over with reddish brown. Owing to the semi-transparency of the shell, the eggs have a slight tinge of flesh colour.

They have generally two brood in the season. The first make their appearance about the second week in June, and the last brood leave the nest about the 10th of August. Though it is not uncommon for twenty and even thirty pair to build in the same barn, yet every thing seems to be conducted with great order and affection. Several nests are often within a few inches of each other; yet no appearance of discord or quarrelling takes place in the peaceful community. Scarcely a barn to which these birds can find access is without them, and they are seldom or never disturbed in their habitations. A German farmer once assured Mr. Wilson, that if a man permitted the Swallows to be shot, his cows would give bloody milk; and also that no barn where Swallows frequented would ever be struck with lightning.

When the young are fit to leave the nest, the old ones entice them out by fluttering backwards and forwards, twittering and calling to them every time they pass; and

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the nostrils are open, and the mouth is wide. Except in one species, the wings are long and the tail is forked. They have short slender legs, and the toes are placed three before and one behind, with the exception of four species, in which the toes are all placed forward. They have a peculiar twittering voice, and fly with extreme rapidity. Their plumage is glossed with a rich purple.

the young exercise themselves for several days in short essays of this kind, within doors, before they first venture abroad. As soon as they leave the barn, they are conducted by their parents to the trees or bushes by the pond, creek, or river shore, where their proper food can be most abundantly and conveniently furnished. About the middle of August they seem to begin to prepare for their departure. They assemble on the roof in great numbers, dressing and arranging their plumage and twittering with great cheerfulness. Their song is a kind of sprightly warble, often continued for a considerable time. From this period to the 8th of September, they may be seen skimming along in great numbers to the south. How far they continue their route is uncertain; none of them remain in the United States.

The Barn Swallow is seven inches long; the upper parts are of a steel blue, the lower parts of a light chestnut; the wings and tail are brown black, slightly glossed with reflections of green, the legs dark purple. This bird is easily tamed and soon becomes exceedingly gentle and familiar.

### BANK SWALLOW.

OF all our Swallows, this species appear to be the most sociable with its kind, and the least intimate with man. They live together in large communities of three or four hundred; scratching out holes for their nests on the high sandy bank of a river, quarry or gravel pit, at a foot or so from the surface. Several of these holes are often within a few inches of each other, and extend in various strata along the front of the precipice, sometimes for eighty or an hundred yards. At the extremity of these holes, a little fine dry grass, with a few large downy feathers, forms the

bed on which five pure white eggs are deposited. The Bank Swallow begins to build in April, and has commonly two brood in the season.

This bird is five inches long; the upper parts are mouse coloured; lower, white, with a band of dusky brownish across the upper part of the breast; claws fine, pointed and very sharp; wings and tail darker than the body. The female differs very little from the male.

### CHIMNEY SWALLOW:

THIS Swallow like all the rest of its tribe is migratory in the United States, and is dispersed over the whole country wherever there are vacant chimneys in summer, sufficiently high and convenient for their accommodation. In no other situation are they observed at present to build. The nest of this bird is formed of very small twigs fastened together with a strong adhesive gum or glue, secreted by two glands and mixing with the saliva. It is small and shallow and totally destitute of the soft lining with which the others are so plentifully supplied. The eggs are generally four and white.

The Chimney Swallow is easily distinguished in the air from the rest of its tribe, by its long wings, its short body, and the diving rapidity of its flight; shooting swiftly in various directions without any apparent motion of the wings, and uttering the sounds *tsip tsip tsip tsee tsee* in a hurried manner. It is never seen to alight but in hollow trees or chimneys, is always most gay and active in wet and gloomy weather, and is the earliest abroad in the morning and latest out in the evening, of all our Swallows.

This bird is four inches and a half in length, and is altogether of a deep sooty brown, except the chin and line over the eye which are of a dull white; the feet are ex-

tremely muscular, claws very sharp, and bill extremely short, hard and black.

### PURPLE MARTIN.

THIS well known bird is a general inhabitant of the United States, and a particular favourite wherever he takes up his abode. "I never," says Wilson, "met with more than one man who disliked the Martin, and would not permit them to settle about his house. This was a penurious, close-fisted German, who hated them, because, as he said, 'they eat his peas.' I told him he must certainly be mistaken, as I never knew an instance of Martins eating *peas*; but he replied with coolness, that he had many times seen them himself 'blaying near the hife, and going *schnip, schnap,*' by which I understood that it was his *bees* that had been the sufferers; and the charge could not be denied."

The summer residence of this agreeable bird is universally among the habitations of man. Wherever he comes, he finds some hospitable retreat fitted up for his accommodation. Some people have large conveniences formed for the Martins, with many apartments which are usually full, and regularly occupied every spring. The Choctaws and Chickasaws cut off all the top branches from a sapling near their cabins, leaving the prongs a foot or two in length, on each of which they hang a gourd or calabash, properly hollowed out for their convenience. On the banks of the Mississippi, the negroes stick up long canes with the same species of apartment fixed to their tops, in which the Martins regularly breed.

About the middle of April the Martins first begin to prepare their nest. This is formed of dry leaves, straw, hay and feathers. The eggs are four in number, quite small for the size of the bird, and pure white without any spots.

While the female is sitting, she is frequently visited by the male, who sometimes occupies her place while she takes a short recreation abroad. He sits on the outside dressing and arranging his plumage, occasionally passing to the door of the apartment as if to inquire how she does. His notes at this time assume peculiar softness, and are expressive of much tenderness.

The Purple Martin is the terror of crows, hawks and eagles. These he attacks whenever they make their appearance, and with such vigour and rapidity that they instantly have recourse to flight. So well known is this to the lesser birds, and the domestic poultry, that, as soon as they hear the Martin's voice engaged in fight, all is alarm and consternation. The flight of this bird is easy, rapid and graceful. His usual note is loud and musical; but is frequently succeeded by others more low and guttural.

The Purple Martin is eight inches in length; the upper parts are of a rich and deep purplish blue, with strong violet reflections; the legs are short, stout and of a dark dirty purple; the tail consists of twelve feathers, is considerably forked, and edged with purple blue. The female is nearly as large as the male; the upper parts are blackish brown, with blue and violet reflections thinly scattered; wings and tail blackish brown.

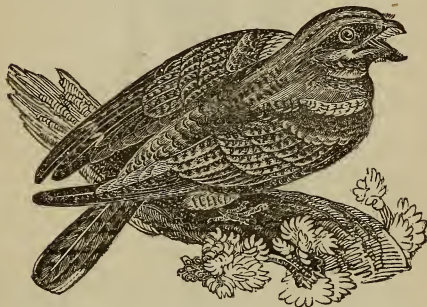
### EUROPEAN GOAT-SUCKER.\*

THIS is the only species known in Europe, is consid-

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Goat-suckers are nearly allied to swallows both in form and manners. It resembles the swallow in the remarkable wideness of its gape, in feeding upon insects, and in collecting its food upon the wing. There are about fifteen species of this bird, three of which, the Night Hawk, Whip-poor-will, and Chuck-will's Widow, inhabit the United States.

erably larger than the swallow, being ten inches and a half in length, and in weight two ounces and a half. The ground of the plumage is almost black, but it is beautifully diversified with ash colour and white in different parts ; and it has, like all of its kind, a number of bristles about the bill. It makes no nest, but lays its eggs on the bare ground, or some loose crag, without any seeming care whatever. It



is a great destroyer of cock-chaffers and beetles, and its note resembles the noise of a spinning wheel. From its nocturnal habits it has been called the Night Hawk, and the Churn Owl.

There appears to be no other ground for the ridiculous story of its sucking the goats, but the width of its mouth. "The country people," says Mr. White, "have a notion that the Night Owl, or Churn Owl, or Night Jar, which they call a Puckeridge, is very injurious to weaning calves, by inflicting, as it strikes at them, a fatal distemper, known to the cow leeches by the name of puckeridge. Thus does this harmless, ill-fated bird fall under a double imputation

which it by no means deserves—in Italy, of sucking the teats of goats, whence it is called *Caprimulgus*, and in England of communicating a deadly disorder to cattle. The least observation and attention would convince men that these birds neither injure the goatherd nor the grazier.”



NIGHT HAWK.

THIS bird in Virginia and some of the southern districts is called a bat. It is universally known in the United States, and in summer inhabits North America from Hudson's Bay to Florida. Soon after the twentieth of April they are dispersed over the country from the seashore to the mountains; and towards evening are seen in pairs playing about high in air and pursuing wasps, flies, beetles and various other winged insects of the larger sort. About the middle of May the female begins to lay. For this purpose no previous preparation is made. No nest is built, but the eggs are placed on the bare ground, in all cases in a dry situation, where the colour of the leaves, ground and stones about them may resemble the general tint of the eggs and thereby render them less easy to be



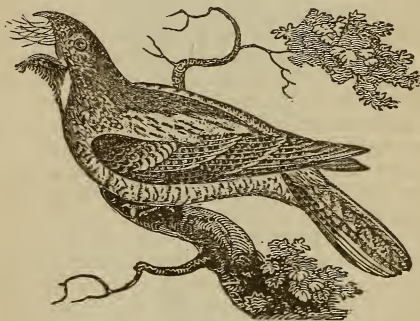
discovered. The eggs are commonly two, of a dirty bluish white, and marked with touches of dark olive brown.

As soon as incubation commences, the male keeps a most vigilant watch in the neighbourhood. He plays about in the air, mounting by several quick vibrations of the wing, uttering all the while a sharp harsh squeal, till having gained the highest point, he suddenly precipitates himself head foremost, and with great rapidity, down sixty or seventy feet, wheeling up again as suddenly; at which instant is heard a booming sound, resembling that produced by blowing strongly into the bunghole of an empty hogs-head, and which is doubtless produced by the sudden expansion of his capacious mouth, while he passes through the air. This singular habit belongs peculiarly to the male. The female has, indeed, the common hoarse note, and much the same mode of flight, but never precipitates herself in the manner of the male. When she is approached during the time of incubation, she moves in such a fluttering, tumbling manner, and with such appearance of a lame and wounded bird, as nine times in ten to deceive the intruder and induce him to pursue her.

When the weather happens to be wet and gloomy, the Night Hawks are seen abroad at all times of the day, generally at a considerable height; their favourite time however is from two hours before sunset until dusk. At such times they seem all vivacity, darting about in the air in every direction, making frequent and sudden turnings, as if busily engaged in catching insects. Even in the hottest, clearest weather, they are occasionally seen abroad, squeaking at short intervals. They are also often found setting along the fences, basking themselves in the sun. Near the sea-shore, and in the vicinity of extensive salt marshes they are likewise very numerous, skimming over the mead-

ows till it is so dark that the eye can no longer follow them.

This bird is nine inches and a half in length; the upper parts are of a very deep blackish brown, the whole lower parts are marked with transverse lines of dusky and yellowish. The tail is somewhat shorter than the wings when shut, is handsomely forked, and consists of ten broad feathers; the mouth is extremely large, and of a reddish flesh colour within; there are no bristles about the bill; the tongue is very small, and attached to the inner surface of the mouth.



### WHIP-POOR-WILL.

THIS is a singular and very celebrated species, generally known over the greater part of the United States. The notes of this solitary bird seem like the voice of an old friend and are listened to by almost every one with great interest. At first they issue from some retired part of the woods, the glen, or mountain; in a few evenings we hear

them from the adjoining coppice, the garden fence, the road before the door, and even from the roof of the dwelling house long after the family have retired to rest. Every morning and evening his shrill repetitions are heard from the adjoining woods, and when two or more are calling at the same time, the noise, mingling with the echoes of the mountains, is really surprising. These notes seem pretty plainly to articulate the words whip-poor-will, the first and last syllables being uttered with great emphasis. When near, you often hear an introductory chuck between the notes. Towards midnight they generally become silent, unless it be a clear moonlight. During the day, they sit in the most retired, solitary, and deep shaded parts of the woods where they repose in silence. Their food appears to be large moths, grasshoppers and such insects as frequent the bark of old rotten and decaying timber.

The female begins to lay about the second week in May, selecting for this purpose the most unfrequented part of the wood, often where some brush, old logs, or heaps of leaves have been lying and always in a dry situation. The eggs are deposited on the ground or on the leaves, not the slightest appearance of a nest being visible. These are usually two in number, much resembling those of the night hawk, but with a much darker ground colour, and more thickly marbled with dark olive.

"In traversing the woods," says Mr. Wilson, "one day in the early part of June, along the brow of a rocky declivity, a whip-poor-will rose from my feet, and fluttered along, sometimes prostrating herself, and beating the ground with her wings, as if just expiring. Aware of her purpose, I stood still, and began to examine the space immediately around me for the eggs or young, one or other of which I was certain must be near. After a long search, to my mortification, I could find neither and was just going to

abandon the spot when I perceived somewhat like a slight mouldiness among the withered leaves, and on stooping down discovered it to be a young whip-poor-will, seemingly asleep, as its eyelids were nearly closed; or perhaps this might only be to protect its tender eyes from the glare of day. I sat down by it on the leaves, and drew it as it then appeared. It was probably not a week old. All the while I was thus engaged, it neither moved its body, nor opened its eyes more than half, and I left it as I found it. After I had walked about a quarter of a mile from the spot, recollecting that I had left a pencil behind, I returned and found my pencil, but the young bird was gone."

This bird is nine inches and a half long; the mouth is exceedingly large and beset along the sides with a number of long, thick, elastic bristles; the eyes are very large, full and bluish black; the plumage of the upper parts is variegated with black, pale cream, brown and rush colour, the wings when shut reach scarcely to the middle of the tail and are elegantly spotted with very light and dark brown. The female is about an inch less in length, and is much lighter on the upper parts.

### CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW.

THIS bird is seldom found to the north of Virginia and Tennessee. It derives its name from its very peculiar notes, which seem exactly to articulate these words. It commences its singular call, generally in the evening, soon after sunset, and continues it with short occasional interruptions for hours. Towards morning these repetitions are renewed, and continue until the break of dawn. During the day it is altogether silent. In a still evening, it may be heard at the distance of nearly a mile, the tones of its voice being stronger and more full than those of the whip-

poor-will, and uttered with much greater deliberation and emphasis.

The flight of this bird is low, skimming about at a few feet above the surface of the ground, frequently settling on old logs, or on the fences, and from thence sweeping around, in pursuit of various winged insects that fly in the night. Like the whip-poor-will, it prefers the declivities of glens and other deeply shaded places, and makes the surrounding mountains ring with echoes the whole evening. The female lays two eggs, generally on the ground, and always in the woods; it makes no nest; the eggs are of a dull olive colour, sprinkled with darker specks; they are about as large as those of a pigeon and exactly oval.



This bird is twelve inches long, the sides of the mouth are armed with numerous strong bristles; head and back being deep brown, powdered with cream, rust and bright ferruginous, and marked with black; breast black and powdered with rust.

A singular fact in relation to this bird is thus noticed by Mr. Audubon. "When the Chuck-will's-widow, either male or female (for each sits alternately) has discovered

that the eggs have been touched, it ruffles its feathers and appears extremely dejected for a minute or two, after which it emits a low murmuring cry, scarcely audible to me, as I lay concealed at a distance of not more than eighteen or twenty yards. At this time I have seen the other parent reach the spot, flying so low over the ground that I thought its little feet must have touched it as it skimmed along, and after a few low notes and some gesticulations, all indicative of great distress, take an egg in its mouth, the other bird doing the same, when they would fly off together, skimming closely over the ground, until they disappeared among the branches and trees. But to what distance they remove their eggs, I have never been able to ascertain; nor have I ever had an opportunity of witnessing the removal of the young. Should a person, coming upon the nest when the bird is sitting, refrain from touching the eggs, the bird returns to them and sits as before. This fact I have also ascertained by observation."

### SCARLET TANAGER.\*

THIS is the most showy of the gaudy foreigners that regularly visit us from the torrid region of the south. He is drest in the richest scarlet set off with the most jetty black, and comes over extensive countries to sojourn for a time among us. He is found in every part of the United States, and even in Canada. He rarely approaches the habitations of man, unless, perhaps, to the orchard where he sometimes builds; or to the cherry trees in search of fruit. The depth of the woods is his favourite

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\* The Tanager genus includes about forty-five species. They are in general about the size of the Canary bird, and vary in plumage according to the species and the climate. They are found in all the warm regions of America.

abode. There, among the thick foliage of the tallest trees, you may listen to his simple and monotonous notes, *chip, chun*, repeated at short intervals in a pensive and melancholy tone.

His food consists of large winged insects, such as wasps, hornets and humble bees, and also of fruit and berries. His nest is built about the middle of May, on the horizontal branch of a tree, and is but slightly put together of



stalks of broken flax and dry grass. The eggs are three, of a dull blue, spotted with brown or purple. They rarely raise more than one brood in a season, and leave for the south about the last week in August.

Among all the birds that inhabit our woods there is none so brilliant as this. Seen among the green leaves, with the light falling strongly on his plumage, he is indeed very beautiful. If he has little of melody in his notes to charm us, he has nothing in them to displease. His manners are modest and inoffensive. He never meddles with property that does not belong to him, and even renders essential

service to the husbandman by the destruction of noxious insects.

The male of this species, when arrived at his full size and colours, is six inches and a half in length and ten and a half broad. The whole plumage is of a most brilliant scarlet, except the wings and tail which are of a deep black. The iris of the eye is of a cream colour, the legs and feet are light blue. The female is green above and yellow below; the wings and tail brownish black edged with green. The young birds, during their residence here the first season, continue nearly of the same colour with the female.

"Passing through an orchard one morning," says Mr. Wilson, "I caught one of these young birds that had but lately left the nest. I carried it with me about half a mile, to shew it to my friend Mr. William Bartram; and having procured a cage, hung it up on one of the large pine trees in the botanic garden, within a few feet of that of an orchard oriole, which also contained young; hopeful that the charity, or tenderness of the orioles would induce them to supply the cravings of the stranger. But charity with them, as with too many of the human race, began and ended at home. The poor orphan was altogether neglected, notwithstanding its plaintive cries; and, as it refused to be fed by me, I was about to return it back to the place where I found it, when towards the afternoon, a scarlet Tanager, no doubt its own parent, was seen fluttering round the cage, endeavouring to get in. Finding this impracticable, he flew off and soon returned with food in his bill; and continued to feed it till after sunset, taking up his lodgings on the higher branches of the same tree. In the morning, almost as soon as day broke, he was again seen most actively engaged in the same affectionate manner; and, not



withstanding the insolence of the orioles, continued his benevolent offices the whole day, roosting at night as before. On the third or fourth day, he appeared extremely solicitous for the liberation of his charge, using every expression of distressful anxiety, and every call and invitation that nature had put in his power for him to come out. This was too much for the feelings of my venerable friend ; he procured a ladder and mounting to the spot where the bird was suspended, opened the cage, took out the prisoner, and restored him to liberty and to his parent, who, with notes of great exultation, accompanied his flight to the woods."

### SUMMER RED BIRD.

THE male of the Summer Red Bird is wholly of a rich vermillion colour, most brilliant on the lower parts ; the bill is disproportionably large ; the legs and feet are light blue, inclining to purple ; the length of the whole bird is seven inches and a quarter, and twelve inches between the tips of the expanded wings. The female differs little in size from the male, but in the upper part of the body is of a brownish yellow olive, and in the lower part is of a dull orange yellow. The nest is built in the woods, on the horizontal branch of a half grown tree, at the height of ten or twelve feet from the ground, and is composed of broken stalks of dry flax, lined with fine grass. The female lays three light blue eggs, and the young are produced about the middle of June. They are at first of a green olive above, nearly the same colour as the female below, and do not acquire their full tints till the succeeding spring or summer.

The food of these birds consists of various kinds of bugs, and large black beetles. During the season of whortle-

berries, they seem to subsist chiefly on them, but in the early part of the season on insects of the above description.

The note of the male is a strong and sonorous whistle, resembling a loose trill or shake on the notes of a fife frequently repeated; that of the female is rather a kind of chattering, approaching nearly to the rapid pronunciation of *chicky-tucky-tuck chicky-tucky-tuck*, when she sees any person approaching the neighbourhood of her nest. She is, however, rarely seen, and usually is mute, and scarcely to be distinguished from the colour of the foliage at a distance; while the loquacity and brilliant red of the male, make him very conspicuous, and when seen among the green leaves, particularly if the light falls strongly on his plumage, he has a most beautiful appearance.

The Summer Red Bird delights in a flat, sandy country, covered with wood and interspersed with pine trees; and is consequently more numerous towards the shores of the Atlantic than in the interior. In both the Carolina's and in Georgia they are frequently found; in the Northern States they are very rare. It is of the Tanager genus.

### THE KING BIRD.\*

THIS bird has been called the Tyrant Flycatcher, as well as King Bird, for his extraordinary behaviour, and the authority he assumes over all others, during the time of

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\* The flycatcher genus take their name from feeding on insects. They make no pretensions to song, but some of them use a little inward wailing note, when they think their young in danger from cats and other annoyances. In England they are summer birds, and very familiar. The King bird, Phœbe-bird and several other species, are found in the United States.

breeding. At that season his extreme affection for his mate, and for his nest and young, makes him suspicious of every bird that passes near his residence. In the month of May, June and part of July, his life is a continued scene of broils and battles. He will attack hawks and crows, the bald eagle and even the great black eagle, without discrimination, and they all dread an encounter with him.

There is one bird however that is sometimes more than his match. This is the purple martin, one whose food and disposition are pretty similar to his own, but who has greatly the advantage of him on the wing, in eluding all his attacks and teasing him as he pleases. The red-headed woodpecker, also, sometimes amuses himself with the violence of the King Bird, clinging to the rail of a fence, and playing *bo-peep* with him round it, evading all his attempts to strike at him. As soon, however, as his young are able to shift for themselves, he is as mild and peaceable as any other bird.

He is disliked by the husbandmen on account of his partiality for bees. He plants himself on the garden fence, or on a small tree in the neighbourhood of the hives, and from thence sallies on them as they pass and repass; making great havock among their numbers.

The King Bird is very generally known, from the Lakes to Florida. His food consists of insects and berries. The nest is often built in the orchard, on the horizontal branch of an apple tree, or on a sassafras tree at no great height from the ground. The outside consists of small slender twigs, tops of withered yarrow flowers, well woven together with tow and wool, and is made large and remarkably firm and compact. It is usually lined with fine grass and horse hair. The eggs are five, of a very pale cream colour, marked with spots of deep purple and light brown.

“The King Bird,” says Mr. Wilson, “is altogether destitute of song, having only a shrill twitter. His usual mode of flight is singular. The vibrations of his broad wings, as he moves slowly over the fields, resemble those of a hawk hovering and settling in the air to reconnoitre the ground below; and the object of the King Bird is no doubt something similar, viz. to look out for passing insects, either in the air or among the flowers and blossoms below him. In fields of pasture he often takes his stand, on the tops of the mullen and other rank weeds, near the cattle, and makes occasional sweeps after passing insects, particularly the large black gadfly, so terrifying to horses and cattle. His eye moves restlessly around him, traces the flight of an insect for a moment or two, then that of a second, and even a third, until he perceives one to his liking, when with a shrill cry he pursues, seizes it, and returns to the same spot again, to look out for more. This habit is so conspicuous when he is watching the bee-hive, that several intelligent farmers of my acquaintance are of opinion that he picks out only the drones and never injures the working bees. Be this as it may, he certainly gives a preference to one bee and one species of insect over another. He hovers over the river, sometimes for a considerable time, darting after insects that frequent such places, snatching them from the surface of the water, and diving about in the air like a swallow; for he possesses at will great powers of wing. Numbers of them are frequently seen thus engaged, for hours together, over the rivers Delaware and Schuylkill, in a calm day, particularly towards evening. He bathes himself by diving repeatedly into the water from the overhanging branches of some tree, where he sits to dry and dress his plumage.”

This species is eight inches long; the general colour of

the upper parts is a dark slaty ash; the head and tail are nearly black; the throat and all the rest of the lower parts are pure white; the plumage on the crown, though not forming a crest, is frequently erected, and discovers a rich bed of brilliant orange, or flame colour, called by the country people his crown. The bill is very broad at the base, of a glossy black colour, and furnished with bristles at the base. The female differs in being more brownish on the upper parts, and in having a streak of paler orange on the crown.

### THE ORIOLES.

OF the Oriole there appears to be only one species known in Europe; this is by some termed the Golden Oriole. It is about the size of a thrush, and has been called the Golden Thrush and the Witwal. The head and whole body of the male is of a rich yellow; the bill red; from that to the eye a black line: the wings black, marked with a bar of yellow, as are the ends of the feathers. The tail is black, with the end yellow. The body of the female is a dull green, with dusky wings and tail. The nest of this bird is of the shape of a purse, and rests upon the outmost twigs of tall trees. It is common in France, but has very rarely visited England.

It is in America, however, that these birds are found in the greatest variety, and the most perfect beauty. There are in fact upwards of forty species, most of which are natives of the New Continent. In Guiana and Brazil, the birds of this species take a different method to protect and hatch their nascent progeny. A traveller who walks into the forests of those countries, among the first strange objects that excite curiosity, is struck with the multitude of birds' nests hanging at the extremity of almost every

branch. In cultivated countries, a great part of the business of the feathered tribe is to hide or defend their nests from the invasions of man. But in the depths of remote and solitary forests, if the monkey or the snake can be guarded against, the bird has no other enemies to fear. On the bananas and plantains of these regions, is seen the most vicious and inimical assemblage of creatures that can be imagined. The top is inhabited by monkeys of some particular tribe, that drive off all others; lower down about the great trunk, numbers of the larger snakes are found patiently waiting till some unwary animal comes within the sphere of their activity; and at the edges of the tree, hang these artificial nests in great abundance, inhabited by birds of the most beautiful plumage.

The nest is usually formed of a kind of moss, called by the English inhabitants of those countries *old man's beard*. It is a fibrous substance, not very unlike hair, which can be glued together and moulded into any form. This, therefore, the little artist first glues by some viscous substance gathered in the forest, or sews with the leaves of the banana to the extremest branch of a tree; then building downwards, and still adding fresh materials to those already procured, a nest is formed, hanging from the point of the branch like a pouch; the hole to enter it is on the side; and all the interior parts are lined with the finer fibres of the same substance which composes the whole.

Such is the general contrivance of these hanging nests, which are made, by some birds, with still superior art. A little bird of the Grosbeak kind, in the Philippine Islands, makes its nest in such a manner that there is no opening but from the bottom. At the bottom the bird enters, and goes up through a funnel, like a chimney, till it comes to

the real door of the nest, which lies on one side, and only opens into this funnel.



### BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

FROM the singularity of its colours, the construction of its nest, and the preference it gives to the apple trees, weeping willows, walnut and tulip trees adjoining the farm house, to build on, this bird is known by a variety of names; such as hang-nest, hanging-bird, golden robin, and fire-bird. It is more generally called the Baltimore bird, from its black and orange colours, which were the livery of Lora Baltimore, formerly proprietor of Maryland.

This bird is seven inches in length; bill almost straight, strong, tapering to a sharp point, black and sometimes lead coloured above, the lower mandible light blue towards the base. The head, throat and upper part of the back and wings are black; the whole under parts are a bright orange deepening into vermillion on the breast. The tail is

slightly forked, the legs and feet are light blue or lead colour.

The female has the head, throat and upper part of the neck and back of a dull black; the whole lower parts of an orange yellow, much duller than that of the male; the tail olive yellow.

“The Baltimore Oriole,” says Mr. Audubon, “arrives from the south, perhaps from Mexico, or perhaps from a more distant region, and enters Louisiana as soon as spring commences there. It approaches the planter’s house, and searches amongst the surrounding trees for a suitable place in which to settle for the season. It prefers, I believe, the trees that grow on the sides of a gentle declivity. The choice of a twig being made, the male Oriole becomes extremely conspicuous. He flies to the ground, searches for the longest and driest filaments of the moss, which in that state is known by the name of Spanish Beard; if he finds one fit for his purpose, ascends to the favourite spot where the nest is to be, uttering all the while a continued chirrup, which seems to imply that he knows no fear, but on the contrary fancies himself the acknowledged king of the woods. This sort of chirruping becomes louder, and is emitted in an angry tone, whenever an enemy approaches, or the bird is accidentally surprised, the sight of a cat or a dog being always likely to produce it. No sooner does he reach the branches, than with bill and claws, aided by an astonishing sagacity, he fastens one end of the moss to a twig, with as much art as a sailor might do, and takes up the other end, which he secures also, but to another twig a few inches off, leaving the thread floating in the air like a swing, the curve of which is perhaps seven or eight inches from the twigs. The female comes to his assistance with another filament of moss, or perhaps some cotton



thread, or other fibrous substance, inspects the work which her mate has done, and immediately commences her operations, placing each thread in a contrary direction to those arranged by her lordly mate, and making the whole cross and recross so as to form an irregular network. Their love increases daily as they see the graceful fabric approaching perfection, until their conjugal affection and faith become as complete as in any species of birds with which I am acquainted."

The eggs are five, white, slightly tinged with flesh colour, marked on the greater end with purple dots, and on the other parts with long hair like lines. The song of the Baltimore is a clear, mellow whistle, repeated at short intervals as he gleans among the branches. His principal food consists of caterpillars, beetles and bugs. He inhabits North America, from Canada to Mexico, and is even found as far south as Brazil.

### ORCHARD ORIOLE.

THIS bird is smaller than the Baltimore Oriole, its colours are different and differently disposed, its notes are less full and mellow, and uttered with much more rapidity, its mode of building and the materials it uses are entirely different, and the shape and colour of the eggs of each are evidently unlike. "If all these circumstances," says Mr. Wilson, "are not sufficient to designate this as a distinct species, by what criterion, I would ask, are we to discriminate between a variety and an original species, or to assure ourselves, that the great horned owl is not, in fact, a bastard goose, or the carrion crow a mere variety of the humming bird?"

The female of the Orchard Oriole is six inches and a half in length, and the colour above is a yellow olive, in-

clining to a brownish tint on the back; the wings are dusky brown, tail rounded at the extremity, whole lower parts yellow, bill bent a little, very sharp pointed and black towards the extremity. The young male of the first season corresponds almost exactly with the above description. In the succeeding spring he makes his appearance with a large spot of black, marking the front, lores and throat. When this bird is approaching its perfect plumage, the black spreads over the whole head, neck, upper part of the back, breast, wings and tail; the lower parts being coloured with a redish bay or bright chestnut. The black on the head is deep and velvety, that of the wings inclining to brown; the greater wing-coverts are tipped with white.

These birds are so particularly fond of frequenting orchards, that in summer scarcely one orchard is without them. They usually suspend their nests from the twigs of the apple tree. It is formed of a species of long, tough and flexible grass, knit or sewed through and through in a thousand directions as if actually done with a needle. The nest is hemispherical, three inches deep by four in breadth. The inside is usually composed of the light down attached to the seeds of the button wood, which forms a very soft and commodious bed. The eggs are usually four, of a very pale bluish tint, with a few small specks of brown, and spots of dark purple.

The female sits fourteen days; and the young remain ten days before they venture abroad, which is generally about the middle of June. They are easily raised from the nest, and soon become agreeable domestics. One which Mr. Wilson reared and kept through the winter, whistled with great clearness and vivacity at two months old. It had an odd manner of moving its head and neck

slowly and regularly, and in various directions without stirring its body. This motion was as slow and regular as that of a snake. When at night a candle was brought into the room, it became restless and evidently dissatisfied, fluttering about the cage, as if seeking to get out; but when the cage was placed on the same table with the candle, it seemed extremely well pleased, fed and drank, drest, shook and arranged its plumage, sat as close to the light as possible, and sometimes chanted a few broken, irregular notes.

### GRAKLE.

OF the Grakle there are about eleven species inhabiting America, and the tropical climates, some of them of the size of a magpie; others but little larger than the robin. Their general plumage is black. They live on maize, fruits and insects; but one species in the Philippine Islands, which is called from its beauty the Paradise Grakle, is remarkable for being an extraordinary destroyer of grasshoppers. The inhabitants of the Isle of Bourbon, being greatly infested with that insect, imported a pair of these birds, which soon relieved them from that pest. In the course of time, however, the Grakles became very numerous, and the inhabitants thinking them injurious, proscribed them by an edict; on which the grasshoppers increased so fast on them that they were obliged to send for more Grakles, which presently dispatched every grasshopper in the island.

### THE PURPLE GRAKLE.

THIS noted depredator is well known to every farmer of the northern and middle states, by the name of the Blackbird or Crow Blackbird. In the latter part of March,

these birds come from the south ; fly in loose flocks, frequent swamps and meadows, and follow in the furrows after the plough. Their food at this season consists of worms, grubs, and caterpillars, of which they destroy prodigious numbers, as if to recompense the husbandman beforehand for the havoc they intend to make in his crops of Indian corn. They build on tall cedar and pine trees in company, sometimes ten or fifteen nests being on the same tree. These are five inches in diameter, composed outwardly of mud, with long stalks and roots of grass, and lined with horse hair. The eggs are five, of a bluish olive colour, marked with large spots of black and dark brown.

The trees in which they build are near the farm-houses and plantations. As soon as the blade of corn first makes its appearance, the Grakles descend upon the fields, and begin to pull up and regale themselves on the seeds, scattering the green blades around. When the young ears are in a milky state, they are attacked with redoubled eagerness by the Grakles and Redwings. They descend on the corn, dig off the external covering of the leaves, and having laid bare the ear, leave little behind to the farmer but the cobs and shrivelled skins. Whole acres of corn have been thus almost entirely ruined. During these depredations the gun makes great havoc among them, which has no other effect than to send the survivors to another field. This system of plunder and retaliation continues till November, when they sheer off to the south ; where they collect and darken the air with their numbers. They rise from the fields with a noise like thunder, and descend on the roads and fences ; and when they again rise and cover the high timbered trees, then destitute of leaves, the whole forest seems hung in mourning ; their notes and

screams, meanwhile, resembling the sound of a distant cataract, swelling and dying away on the ear, according to the fluctuations of the breeze.

The Purple Grakle is easily tamed, and sings in confinement. It has also in several instances been taught to articulate some few words pretty distinctly. A singular attachment frequently takes place between this bird and the fish hawk. The nest of the latter is of very large dimensions, often from three to four feet in breadth, and from four to five feet high. It is composed, externally of large sticks, or fagots, among the interstices of which sometimes three or four pair of crow blackbirds will construct their nests, while the hawk is sitting or hatching above. Here both pursue the duties of incubation and of rearing their young, living in the greatest harmony, and mutually watching and protecting each other's property from depredators.

The Purple Grakle is twelve inches long; on a slight view it appears wholly black, but placed near, in a good light, the whole head, neck and breast, appear of a rich glossy steel blue, dark violet and silky green. All these colours are extremely shining, varying as differently exposed to the light. The female is of a sooty brown colour.

### BIRD OF PARADISE.

THIS bird has been more celebrated for the false and imaginary qualities which are attributed to it, than for its real and truly remarkable qualities. It has been reported of it that the egg is produced in the air by the female, and hatched by the male in an orifice of its body; that it never touches the ground; that it hangs itself by the two long

feathers to a tree when sleeping; and that it is naturally without legs and subsists entirely upon vapours and dew; with a variety of other assertions equally false and ridiculous. There are about eight different species of this bird; but that which is best known is the GREATER PARADISE BIRD, which appears to the eye nearly of the size of a pigeon, though in reality the body is not much larger than that of a thrush. The tail, which is about six inches, is as long as the body; the wings are large compared with the bird's other dimensions. The head, the throat and the neck are of a pale gold colour. The base of the bill and the side of the head and throat are surrounded by black feathers, soft and changeable. The body and wings are chiefly covered with beautiful brown, purple and gold feathers. The uppermost part of the tail feathers is of a pale yellow, and those beneath are white and longer than the former; for which reason the hinder part of the tail appears to be all white. But what chiefly excites curiosity are two long naked feathers, which spring from just above the tail, and which are usually about two feet long. These are bearded only at the beginning and the end; the whole shaft for about one foot nine inches being of a deep black, while the feathered extremity is of a changeable colour.

This bird is a native of the Molucca Islands, but is found in greater numbers in New Guinea. The inhabitants are not insensible of the pleasure they afford, and give them the name of God's Birds, as being superior to all others that he has made. They live in large flocks, and at night generally perch upon the same tree. They are called by some the Swallows of Ternate, from their rapid flight, and from their being continually on the wing in pursuit of insects.

As the country where they are bred has its tempestuous

season, when rains and thunders continually disturb the atmosphere, these birds are at that time but seldom seen. The natives, who make a trade of killing and selling these birds to the Europeans, generally conceal themselves in the trees where they resort, and having covered themselves up from sight in a bower made of the branches, they shoot at the birds with reedy arrows ; and, as they assert, if they happen to kill the king, they then have a good chance for killing the greatest part of the flock. The chief mark by which they know the king is by the ends of the feathers in his tail which have eyes like those of a peacock. When they have taken a number of these birds, their usual method is to clean them and cut off their legs ;\* they then run a hot iron into the body, which dries up the internal moisture ; and filling the cavity with salts and spices, they sell them to the Europeans for a mere trifle.

The **MAGNIFICENT BIRD OF PARADISE** is superior to the preceding, in the beauty of its plumage. The crown of the head is a deep chestnut. At the back part of the neck a tuft of yellowish arises, each of which is marked near the tip with a black spot ; beneath these springs another tuft still larger and of a straw colour. The back and tail are of a bright red brown. Down the middle of the neck, and breast, the colour is blue green, which is encircled by a gorget of black with a green shade. The long feathers from the tail are without tufts at the end, but are furnished with very short green webs on one side.

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\*This has given rise to the ridiculous fable above quoted ; and the reason of this operation is, that the birds are used in that country as aigrettes, and for other ornaments of dress ; and it is therefore usual to cut off the useless and less brilliant parts.

## GALLINACEOUS BIRDS.

BIRDS of the Gallinaceous, or Poultry Order, are without talons or hooked bills, and feed chiefly upon grain.—Of these birds, perhaps the most common and the best known is

## THE COCK.

OF all kinds the Cock seems to be the oldest companion of mankind, to have been the first reclaimed from the forest, and taken to supply the accidental failure of the luxuries or necessities of life. As he is thus longest under the care of man, so perhaps he exhibits the greatest number of varieties, there being scarcely two birds of this species that exactly resemble each other in form and plumage.

It is not well ascertained when the Cock was first made domestic in Europe; but it is generally agreed that it was first brought there from the kingdom of Persia. It came to America with the early European settlers. The Cock is found wild in the Island of Tinian, in many others of the Indian Ocean, and in the woods on the coast of Malabar; his plumage is black and yellow, and his comb and wattles are yellow and purple. There is also another peculiarity in those of the Indian woods; their bones, when boiled, are black as ebony; with us, as every one knows, they are white. This tincture proceeds perhaps from their food.

No animal in the world has greater courage than the Cock, when opposed to one of his own species; and in all the less refined and civilized parts of the world, Cock-fighting is a favourite diversion. In China, India, the Philippine Islands, and all over the east, it is the sport and amuse-



ment even of kings and princes. In England it is declining every day, and it is to be hoped will in time become only the pastime of the lowest vulgar. It is not against his own species alone that the Cock displays courage. One, of less than a year old, has been known to dart on a sparrow hawk, throw him down, and detain him till a person came to secure the plunderer.

To his females the Cock is particularly attentive. He keeps them always in his sight, prevents them from straggling and defends them from aggression. Whatever strange Cock appears within his bounds is instantly attacked. His jealousy is as strong as his gallantry, and has been said to prompt him to take vengeance on the female. Dr. Percival relates an instance in which some partridges' eggs having been hatched under a Hen, the Cock, as soon as he saw the brood, fell furiously upon the unfortunate foster-mother, and killed her before any help could be afforded.

The egg of a common Hen weighs one ounce six drams. Upon breaking the shell a fine membrane is found, which lines the shell; next to this is the external white, which is the shape of the egg and then the internal white which is rather rounder and which encloses the yolk, which is quite round. Each of these parts is contained in a fine membrane.

The Hen makes a nest without any care; if left to herself, a hole scratched in the ground among a few bushes answers all purposes; and she generally lays from twelve to fifteen eggs before she begins to sit upon them for the purpose of hatching. Having taken possession of her nest, she remains patiently fixed in her place, till the urgency of hunger forces her to go in search of food. Her eggs are diligently turned and shifted from the centre to

the edge of the nest, so that each may receive a due degree of warmth ; and it is not until about three weeks have elapsed that the incubation is completed. The strongest of the brood then begin to chip the shell with the bill, and are successively enabled to burst from confinement. She continues upon the nest till the whole are hatched, and then leads them forth in search of food. Except when accompanied by a young brood, the hen is always timid and ready to fly from disturbance, but at this time she is fierce and vigorous, and flies boldly at every creature that she thinks is likely to do them mischief.

Ten or twelve chickens are the most that a good Hen can rear and clutch at a time ; but as this bears no proportion to the number of her eggs, schemes have been imagined to clutch all the eggs of a Hen and thus turn her produce to the greatest advantage. One contrivance is the artificial method of hatching chickens in stoves, as is practised at Grand Cairo ; on in a chymical laboratory properly graduated, as has been effected by Mr. Reaumer. At Grand Cairo they thus produce six or seven thousand chickens at a time ; where, as they are brought forth in their mild spring, which is warmer than our summer, the young ones thrive without clutching. But it is otherwise in our colder and unequal climate ; the little animals may without much difficulty be hatched from the shell, but they almost all soon perish. Recent attempts have been made to apply steam to the purpose of hatching fowls. The Cock is a short lived animal, and though their exact age is not well ascertained, it is probably about ten years.

## THE TURKEY.

THIS is the most remarkable bird in the poultry yard, as well for the beauty of its tail as for the singular appearance

of its head, and for those habits which are almost peculiar to itself. It is often difficult to determine on the native place of any animal the species of which is generally diffused; but there is no doubt that the Turkey is a native of America, and that it was not taken in Europe till the discovery of this part of the world.

The Turkeys seem a stupid, vain, querulous tribe, apt enough to quarrel among themselves, yet without any weapons to do each other any injury. Every body knows the strong antipathy the Turkey-cock has to red colours. But there is another method of increasing the animosity of these birds against each other, which is often practised by boys when they have a mind for a battle. This is no more than to smear over the head of one of the Turkeys with dirt, and the rest will run to attack it with all speed and indignation; and two of them thus disguised will fight each other till they are almost suffocated with fatigue and anger.

But though so furious among themselves, they are weak and cowardly against other animals though far less powerful than they. There is no animal, how contemptible soever, that will venture boldly to face the Turkey-cock that he will not fly from. On the contrary he pursues with all the insolence of a bully, any thing that seems to fear him, particularly lap-dogs and children, to both of which he seems to have a particular aversion. At New-York, one of the species attacked and baffled a hawk, which was on the point of seizing a bantam-hen, one of the Turkey's companions.

The female seems of a milder, gentler disposition. She lays eighteen or twenty eggs. Her young must be carefully fed with curd, chopped with dock leaves; but as they grow older, they become more hardy, and follow the moth-

er to considerable distances in pursuit of insect food, which they prefer to any other. When grown up, Turkeys are very hardy birds and feed themselves at very little expense to the farmer. The largest in England weigh from twenty to thirty pounds. There are places, however, in the East Indies, where they are known only in their domestic state, where they grow to the weight of sixty pounds. They were introduced into England in the reign of Henry VIII.

### THE WILD TURKEY.

THIS splendid bird inhabits the United States from the North West Territory to the isthmus of Panama. It is seldom found in the northern and eastern parts. Great numbers of them formerly inhabited Canada, but as their places of resort become settled and thickly peopled, they retire and seek refuge in the interior. The male of the Wild Turkey is nearly four feet in length, the female only three feet and a quarter. The plumage of the male is very brilliant and of a great variety of hues; that of the female is not so beautiful.

These birds do not confine themselves to any particular food, but eat corn, berries, grapes, barley, tadpoles, young frogs and lizards. Their favourite food, however, is the peccan nut and acorn. Wherever there is an abundant crop of acorns, there numerous flocks of Turkeys may be expected. In the fall they direct their courses in vast numbers to the rich lands on the borders of the Ohio and Mississippi. The males and females travel separately, but all in the same direction. Before crossing a river, they assemble on the highest eminences in the vicinity, and remain there a day or two as if in consultation. At length after due preparation, the leader gives a signal

note, and they all wing their way to the opposite shore. Some of the young and weak fall into the water, and are obliged to swim for their lives, using the most violent exertions to reach the shore. Many however perish in the



attempt. After these journeys the Turkeys become so familiar that they fearlessly enter the plantations in search of food. Great numbers are at this time killed, and kept in a frozen state to be sent to distant markets.

They begin to build in April ; the nest is very simple in construction, being only composed of a few dried leaves. The female lays sometimes twenty, but more usually nine or fifteen eggs, which are white, spotted with brown. Wild Turkeys are very tenacious of their feeding grounds, as well as of the trees on which they have once roosted. Flocks have been known to resort to one spot for a succession of years, and to return after a distant emigration in search of food. They roost on a point of land jetting into a river where there are large trees in great numbers. When they are all quiet for the night, they are very easily shot, and an experienced hunter may secure nearly the whole flock ; as the Turkeys, fancying themselves secure when at roost, are not alarmed either by the sportsman or his gun.

The following interesting anecdote is related by Mr. Audubon. "While at Henderson, on the Ohio, I had, among many other wild birds, a fine male Turkey, which had been reared from its earliest youth under my care, it having been caught by me when probably not more than two or three days old. It became so tame that it would follow any person who called it, and was the favourite of the little village. Yet it would never roost with the tame Turkeys, but regularly betook itself at night to the roof of the house, where it remained until dawn. When two years old, it began to fly to the woods, where it remained for a considerable part of the day, to return to the enclosure as night approached. It continued this practice until the following spring, when I saw it several times fly from its roosting place to the top of a high cotton-tree, on the bank of the Ohio, from which, after resting a little, it would sail to the opposite shore, the river being there nearly half a mile wide, and return towards night. One

morning I saw it fly off, at a very early hour, to the woods in another direction, and took no particular notice of the circumstance. Several days elapsed but the bird did not return. I was going towards some lakes near Green River to shoot, when, having walked about five miles, I saw a fine large gobbler cross the path before me, moving leisurely along. Turkeys being then in a prime condition for the table, I ordered my dog to chase it, and put it up. The animal went off with great rapidity, and as it approached the Turkey, I saw with great surprise, that the latter paid little attention. Juno was on the point of seizing it, when she suddenly stopped and turned her head towards me. I hastened to them, but you may easily conceive my surprise when I saw my own favourite bird and discovered that it had recognised the dog, and would not fly from it; although the sight of a strange dog would have caused it to run off at once. A friend of mine, happening to be in search of a wounded deer, took the bird on his saddle before him, and carried it home for me. The following spring it was accidentally shot, having been taken for a wild bird and brought to me on being recognized by the red ribbon which it had around its neck. Pray, reader, by what word will you designate the recognition made by my favourite Turkey of a dog which had been long associated with it in the yard and grounds. Was it the result of instinct, or of reason—an unconsciously revived impression, or the act of an intelligent mind."

### THE PINTADO, OR GUINEA HEN.

THIS is a very remarkable bird, and in some measure unites the characteristics of the pheasant, and the turkey. It has the fine delicate shape of the one, and the bare head

of the other. It is about the size of the common hen, but has much longer legs. It has a round back, with a tail turned downwards, like a partridge. The head is covered with a kind of casque; and the whole plumage is black or dark grey, speckled with white spots. It has wattles under the bill, which do not proceed from the lower chap, as in cocks, but from the upper, which gives it a very peculiar air; while its restless gait and odd chuckling sound, distinguish it from all other birds whatever.

It is well known all over Europe, and in America, and we find it in different countries called by different names, from the place whence they had it. We have given it the name of that part of Africa from whence it was probably first brought, and where it is still found in a wild state. Among the Romans these birds were in high repute for the table, and, being scarce, were sold at a great price.

In many parts of their native country they are seen in vast flocks together, feeding their young, and leading them in quest of food. All their habits are like those of the poultry kind. Their eggs, like their bodies, are speckled; in cold climates they lay but five or six in a season, but they are far more prolific in their sultry regions at home.

### THE PEACOCK.

THIS bird, by the common people of Italy, is said to have the plumage of an angel, the voice of a devil and the entrails of a thief. The first Peacocks were brought into Europe from the East Indies; and it is said that they are still found in vast flocks in a wild state in the island of Java and Ceylon.

The head of this beautiful bird is adorned with a tuft, consisting of twenty-four feathers, whose slender shafts,



are furnished only at the ends with webs exquisitely painted with a rich green mixed with gold; the head, throat, neck and breast are of a deep blue, glossed with green



and gold; the lower parts are black with a greenish hue. The distinguishing mark of this singular bird, however, is its train, which rises just above the tail, and, when erected,

forms a fan of the most resplendent beauty ; the two middle feathers are sometimes four feet and a half long, the others gradually diminishing on each side, the shafts white, and furnished from their origin nearly to the end with parted filaments of varying colours ending in a flat vane, decorated with what is called the eye. The real tail consists of short, stiff brown feathers, which serve as a support to the train.

When pleased or delighted, and in sight of his females, the Peacock erects his train, and displays all the majesty and dignity in the world. His pace is slow and solemn, and he frequently turns gracefully round, as if to catch the sunbeams in every direction and produce new colours of inconceivable richness and beauty. The cry of the Peacock is frequent, and very disagreeable. The plumes are shed every year, and while shedding them, the bird as if humiliated retires from view.

The Peacock has in some countries been esteemed an article of luxury for the table ; but whatever delicacy there may be in the flesh of a young Peacock, it is certain an old one is very indifferent eating. It has also been the custom to serve up Peacocks at the tables of the great, to gratify the sight and not the taste. The skin was first stripped off, and the body after being prepared with spices was again covered up in its former skin, with all its plumage in full display, and no way injured by the operation. The bird thus prepared was often preserved for many years without corrupting. At weddings and on other great occasions, they filled the bird's throat with cotton and camphire which they set on fire for the amusement of the company. Peacocks were highly esteemed by the Romans, and the Bible mentions them among Solomon's importations from the East. In the days of chivalry also

they were in such great repute as to be the subject of a knightly oath.

Like other birds of the poultry kind, the Peacock feeds upon corn; but it is particularly fond of barley. There is, however, scarcely any food that it will not at times covet and pursue. In the indulgence of these capricious pursuits, walls cannot easily confine it: it strips the tops of houses of their tiles or thatch, it lays waste the labours of the gardener, roots up his choicest seeds, and nips his favourite flowers in the bud.

The Peahen in European climates seldom lays above five or six eggs before she sits. In her native forests she is probably much more prolific. This bird lives about twenty years, and not till the third year has it that beautiful variegated plumage that adorns its tail.

### THE OSTRICH.

THIS bird is so large that its size deprives it of the power of flying. Its general weight is about seventy-five or eighty pounds. The head and bill somewhat resemble that of a duck; and the neck is like that of a swan, though much longer. It is usually seven feet high from the top of the head to the ground, but from the back it is only four. Some reach the height of nine feet. From the top of the head to the extremity of the tail, it is seven feet. One of the wings without the feathers is a foot and a half; and being stretched out, with the feathers is three feet.

The plumage is generally black and white, though it is said to be sometimes grey. There are no feathers on the sides, nor yet under the wings nor on the thighs. The lower part of the neck is covered with small feathers of different colours. The head and the upper part of the

neck are covered with hair. At the end of each wing there is a kind of spur, almost like the quill of a porcu-



pine. It is an inch long, of an horny substance and hollow. There are two of these on each wing ; the largest of which

is at the extremity of the bone of the wing, and the other a foot lower. The legs are covered before with scales. The end of the foot is cloven and has two very large toes.

The Ostrich is a native only of the torrid regions of Africa and Arabia, and has never bred out of those countries which first produced it. It inhabits from preference the most solitary and horrid deserts, where there are few vegetables to clothe the surface of the earth, and where rain never comes to refresh it. In these places Ostriches are seen in large flocks, which at a distance appear like a regiment of cavalry, and have often alarmed a whole caravan. In Southern Africa, they are exceedingly troublesome to the farmers, as they will destroy a field of wheat so effectually as not to leave a single ear behind.

The Ostrich is the most voracious animal in the world. It will devour grass, hair, leather, iron, stones, or any thing that is given it. The eggs of this bird are very large, some of them being above five inches in diameter, and weighing above fifteen pounds. They have a very hard shell, and somewhat resemble the eggs of the crocodile, except that those of the latter are less and rounder. It is a curious fact that these eggs often contain a number of small, hard, oval-shaped pebbles, about the size of a marrowfat pea, and of a yellow colour. They are sometimes set and used as buttons.

These birds lay from thirty to forty eggs in a season. They have a strong affection for their young, and watch their eggs with great assiduity. It happens, indeed, in these hot climates, that there is less necessity for the continual incubation of the female, and she frequently leaves her eggs, which are in no danger of being chilled by the weather; but though she sometimes deserts them by day she always carefully broods over them by night. The

young ones are not even able to walk for several days after they are hatched. During this time the old birds are very careful in protecting them, and supplying them with food.

We learn from ancient writers that whole nations have acquired the name of Ostrich-eaters from the preference they have shown to the flesh of this bird. It was eaten among the Romans, and at a single feast, the Emperor Heliogabalus was served with the brains of six hundred of these animals. Some of the savage nations of Africa to this day hunt them for their flesh, as well as for their plumage. They sometimes also breed these birds tame, to eat the young ones; and a single egg is said to be a sufficient entertainment for eight men. The skin of the Ostrich is so thick that it is used for leather by the Arabians; and of the eggs drinking-cups are made. The value of the plumage is well known.

As his spoils are thus valuable, the Arabians train up their best and fleetest horses to pursue the Ostrich. As soon as the hunter comes within sight of his prey, he puts on his horse with a gentle gallop, so as to keep the bird still in sight, and yet not terrify him from the plain into the mountains. The silly creature, instead of going off in a direct line, takes his course in circles, while the hunters still make a small course within, relieve each other, meet him at unexpected turns, and continue the pursuit for two or three days together. At length spent with fatigue and famine, he endeavours to hide himself from those enemies he cannot avoid, and covers his head in the sand, or the first thicket he meets.

Ostriches are sometimes bred in flocks, for they are easily tamed. In this domesticated state they play and frisk about with much vivacity, and are tractable and fa-

miliar towards those who are acquainted with them. To strangers, however, they are often fierce, and will attack them with fury, making an angry, hissing noise, having their throats inflated and their mouths open. During the night they frequently utter a discordant cry, which resembles the distant roaring of a lion, or the hoarse tone of a bear, or an ox when in great agony.

### THE TOUYOU, OR RHEA.

THIS bird, which many call the American Ostrich, is chiefly found in Guiana, in the inland provinces of Brazil and Chili, and the vast forests that border on the mouth of the river Plata. It is said to be found also in Patagonia, and the natives are represented as chasing it on horseback, and killing it with clubs.

It is by much the largest bird in the New Continent, and is generally found to be six feet high, measuring from the head to the ground. Its body is of an oval form, and is covered with long feathers. It goes very swiftly, and in its course uses a very odd kind of action, lifting up one wing, which it keeps raised for a time, and then letting it drop, lifts up the other. It is so fleet, that the best dogs are sometimes thrown out in the pursuit. One of them, finding itself surrounded by the hunters, darted among the dogs with such fury, that they made way to avoid its rage; and it escaped by its wonderful velocity in safety to the mountains. It defends itself with its feet, and calls its young by a kind of hiss.

When first hatched, the young ones are familiar, and follow the first person they meet; but as they grow older, they become more cunning and distrustful. Their flesh



is good to be eaten, and it is said that they live entirely upon grass.



The inhabitants of Buenos Ayres often catch this bird with a lasso.



## THE CASSOWARY.

THIS bird was first brought into Europe by the Dutch from Java, in the East Indies. Its body is nearly equal to that of the ostrich, and its neck and legs are much thicker and stronger in proportion. All the feathers of this bird are of the same kind, and outwardly of the same colour. They are generally double, having two long shafts growing out of a short one which is fixed in the skin. There are feathers on the head and neck, but they are so short and so few, that the skin appears almost entirely naked. The wings when deprived of their feathers are but three inches long. The ends of the wings are adorned with five bended prickles, of different lengths and thickness, which are hollow from the roots to the points. The longest of these is eleven inches.

The most remarkable part about this animal is the head. This is small, bare of feathers, and armed with a helmet of horny substance that covers it from the root of the bill to near half the head backwards. This helmet is black before and yellow behind. Its substance is very hard, consisting of several plates, one over another, like the horn of an ox. The eye is a bright yellow, and the globe being above an inch and a half in diameter, gives it an air equally fierce and extraordinary. At the bottom of the upper eyelid there is a row of small hairs, over which there is another row of black hair resembling an eye-brow. The skin which covers the fore part of the breast, on which this bird leans and rests, is hard, callous and without feathers. The thighs and legs are covered with feathers, and are extremely thick, strong and straight. The toes are three in number and are covered with scales.

Notwithstanding its formidable appearance, the Cassowary is one of the most timid animals of the creation. It never attacks others, and when attacked it makes use of its legs instead of the bill, and kicks like a horse, or running against its pursuer, beats him down and treads him to the ground. This bird is very swift, and as voracious as the ostrich. It is said to devour glass, iron, stones, and even live burning coals without fear or injury. The eggs of the Cassowary are of a grey ash colour, inclining to green. The largest is found to be fifteen inches round one way, and twelve the other. The voice of this bird resembles the grunting of a hog.

### THE NEW-HOLLAND EMEU.



With the sole exception of the ostrich, this is the largest known bird in existence. It resembles the cassowary in the number of its toes, in the excessive shortness of its

wings, and in the structure of its feathers, which are for the most part double, with soft downy barbs, resembling rather a silky covering of hair, than the common plumage of birds.

The Emeu has the head and upper part of the neck thinly covered with slender black feathers; the space around the ears being alone left bare, and exhibiting as well as the neck and throat, the blue tinge of the skin. The general colour of the plumage on the upper parts is a greyish brown, with a lighter tinge beneath. The young are striped with brown and grey. Their bills are black, and their legs are remarkably thick; and of a dull brown. The great length of the legs and of the neck, and the erect attitude and quiet demeanour of these birds, which sometimes attain the height of seven feet, give them quite an imposing appearance. They are extremely wild, and when pursued run with great swiftness. Their flesh is said to have much the flavour of beef.

### THE HOODED DODO.\*

THIS bird presents the most unwieldy and inactive appearance of all the feathered tribe. Its body is massive, almost cubical, and covered with grey feathers; it is just barely supported upon two short, thick legs, like pillars. The neck, thick and puffy, is joined to a head consisting of two great chaps, which are large, black and prominent; so that the animal, when it gapes, seems to be all mouth. The bill therefore is of an extraordinary length, not flat and broad, but thick, and of a bluish white, sharp at the end, and each chap crooked in opposite directions.

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\* It is affirmed in Louden's Magazine of Natural History, that this bird is now extinct.

All this gives the bird a stupid and voracious physiognomy, which is rendered still more striking by a bordering of feathers round the root of the beak, which give the appearance of a hood or cowl. The Dodo is furnished with wings, covered with soft ash-coloured feathers, that are too short to assist it in flying. It is furnished with a tail, and with a few small curled feathers; but this tail is disproportioned and displaced. Its legs are too short for running, and its body too fat to be strong.



This bird is a native of the isle of France, and the Dutch, who first discovered it there, called it in their language, the *nauseous bird*, as well from its disgusting figure as from the bad taste of its flesh. Succeeding observers contradict this last report, and assert that its flesh is good and wholesome. It is a simple bird and is very easily taken.

Three or four Dodos are enough for the dinners of a hundred men.

## RUFFED GROUSE.



THIS is the Partridge of the eastern states, and the Pheasant of Pennsylvania and the southern districts. It is well known in almost every quarter of the United States, and appears to inhabit a very extensive range of country. Its favourite places of resort are high mountains covered with the balsam, pine, hemlock, and other evergreens.

The manners of this bird are solitary ; they are seldom found in coveys of more than four or five together, and more usually in pairs, or singly. They leave their haunts in the woods early in the morning and seek the path or road, to pick up gravel and any thing else they may happen to find to their liking. If the weather be foggy or lowering, they are sure to be seen in such situations. They generally move along with great stateliness.

In walking through solitary woods frequented by these

birds, a stranger is surprised by suddenly hearing a kind of thumping, very similar to that produced by striking two full blown ox-bladders together, but much louder. The strokes at first are slow and distinct, but gradually increase in rapidity, till they run into each other, resembling the sound of very distant thunder, gradually dying away on the ear. After a few minutes pause this is again repeated, and in a calm day may be heard nearly half a mile off. This is called the drumming of the pheasant, and is thus produced. The bird, standing on an old prostrate log, generally in a retired and sheltered situation, lowers his wings, erects his expanded tail, contracts his throat, elevates the two tufts of feathers on the neck, and inflates his whole body, something in the manner of the turkey-cock, strutting and wheeling about with great stateliness. After a few manœuvres of this kind, he begins to strike with his stiffened wings in short and quick strokes, which become more and more rapid until they run into each other, as has been already described.

The nest of this bird is placed on the ground, at the root of a bush, old log, or other sheltered and solitary situation, well surrounded with withered leaves. It is open above, and is usually composed of dry leaves and grass. The eggs are from nine to fifteen in number, of a brownish white, without any spots, and nearly as large as those of a pullet. The young leave the nest as soon as hatched, and are directed by the cluck of the mother, very much in the manner of the common hen. On being surprised, she usually attempts to save them by decoying the disturber in pursuit of herself, by such natural imitation of lameness as would impose upon any one unacquainted with the habits of the bird.

The Pheasant generally springs with a loud whirring

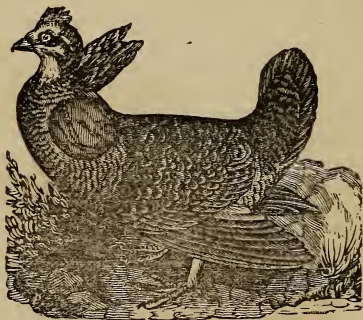
noise, and flies with great vigour through the woods, beyond reach of view, before it alights. With a good dog, however, they are easily found, and sometimes exhibit a singular degree of infatuation by looking down from the branches where they sit, on the dog below, so confused and stupified that they may be shot down one by one till the whole are killed, without attempting to fly off. They are hard to kill, and will often carry a large charge to the distance of two hundred yards and drop down dead. They have sometimes been taken young and tamed, so as to associate with the common fowls. They are very fond of the seeds of grapes, and eat ants, chestnuts, blackberries, and various vegetables. In the fall they feed on whortleberries, and partridge berries, the last of which give their flesh a peculiar and delicate flavour. During winter they eat the buds of the alder and laurel. At this time their flesh is unwholesome.

The Pheasant is eighteen inches long, The upper parts of the body are of a bright rust colour marked with spots of white. The under parts are white and the tail beautifully marked with black. There is a tuft of large black feathers on each side of the neck which it occasionally raises.

### PINNATED GROUSE.

THIS rare bird, though an inhabitant of different and very distant districts of North America, is extremely particular in selecting his place of residence. His favourite haunts are open dry plains, thinly interspersed with trees, or partially overgrown with shrub oak. He has a great aversion to ponds, and marshes, drinking but seldom, and it is believed, never, from such places. This peculiarity has been noticed even in confinement.

“While I was in the state of Tennessee,” says Mr. Wilson, “a person living within a few miles of Nashville had caught an old hen Grouse in a trap; and, being obliged



to keep her in a large cage, as she struck and abused the rest of the poultry, he remarked that she never drank, and that she avoided that quarter of the cage where the cup, containing the water, was placed. Happening, one day, to let some water fall on the cage, it trickled down in drops along the bars, which the bird no sooner observed, than she eagerly picked them off, drop by drop, with a dexterity that shewed she had been habituated to this mode of quenching her thirst; and probably, to this mode only, in those dry and barren tracts, where, except the drops of dew, and drops of rain, water is very rarely to be met with. For the space of a week he watched her closely to discover whether she still refused to drink; but though she was constantly fed on Indian corn, the cup and water still remained untouched and untasted. Yet no sooner did he



again sprinkle water on the bars of the cage, then she eagerly and rapidly picked them off as before."

The most remarkable circumstance relative to these birds is the two extraordinary yellow bags of skin which mark the neck of the male. These appear to be formed by an expansion of the gullet, and the outer skin of the neck, which hang loose when the bird is at rest or flying. But when these are inflated they very much resemble a fully ripe orange. By means of these, he is enabled to produce a booming sound which consists of three notes, similar to those produced by the night-hawk. While uttering these, the bird exhibits all the gesticulations of the turkey-cock; erecting and fluttering his neck and wings, wheeling and passing before the females, and close before his fellows, as in defiance. Now and then, are heard some rapid cackling notes, not unlike those of some person tickled to excessive laughter; in short, no one can listen to them without feeling disposed to laugh.

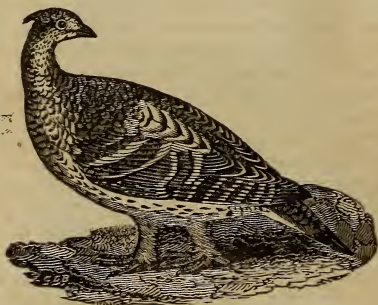
Fresh ploughed fields are sure to be visited by these birds every morning. In winter they become half domesticated, visit the barns and farm houses, and mix with the poultry. Great numbers are then taken in traps. Their nests are built on the ground, formed with little art and few materials.

The Pinnated Grouse is nineteen inches long, and when in good order weighs three pounds and a half. There are small wings on each side of the neck, whose upper parts are mottled transversely with black, brown and white. Over the eye is a semicircular comb of rich orange. The lower parts are white, marked with brown.

### THE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE.

THIS bird was first met with by the lamented Gov.

Lewis, on the upper waters of the Missouri. It inhabits the great plains of the Columbia, and the uncultivated lands near the southern parts of Hudson's Bay, but is never seen in any of the Atlantic States. In the spring, it is sometimes found near Lake Superior.



It is very shy and solitary in summer, but lives in flocks in winter. Their favourite resorts are the plains where they can feed on the buds of the juniper berries. They frequent the woods as well as the plains; sometimes feeding on berries, sometimes on the tops of evergreen, poplar and birch trees. They breed on the ground, near low bushes; the nest is composed of grass, and is lined with feathers. Their flesh is excellent. One of these birds will sometimes weigh upwards of two pounds. The general colour of the plumage is a mixture of white and rusty on a glossy blackish ground; the feathers of the head and neck are tipped with white.



### THE BLACK GROUSE, OR BLACK COCK.

THIS bird is found in many parts of Europe, and in most of the moors in the north of England, Wales and Scotland. Its whole body is black, in some lights shifting to a beautiful purple. It has a forked tail, and is in length from twenty-four to twenty-eight inches. At the breeding season, their contests are very furious, and in some places it is a common method of taking them, to sa-

semble them together by imitating the crowing of a Black Cock, and by having a figure prepared to imitate that animal in all its motions. The Grouse, being collected in vast numbers from all parts enter into a bloody contest; when the combatants are so intent upon each other's destruction that they fall an easy prey to their pursuers and may even be knocked down with a stick.

When the snow begins to fall heavily, the Black Grouse betake themselves to the shelter of a tall heath, juniper, or any other plant that will afford them cover during the violent winds which accompany falls of snow in alpine districts. Even upon the pines, the snow forms a close canopy, which leaves below a sufficiency of air for the breathing of the bird. In the shelter of the bushes they are obliged to open breathing holes for themselves; and while they are shut up in their habitations of snow, the tops of the heath or the leaves of the bush find them in food. When the surface becomes hard, those breathing holes often betray their inmates to the ravages of predatory birds and quadrupeds. The mountain eagles and hawks then fly over the snowy surface, and beat it in the same manner for those holes, as they do for the birds themselves when there is no snow upon the ground; and the four footed ravagers, that then find an easy passage along the hard surface, join in the spoil. Man sometimes takes a part in it, but much less frequently, because there are concealed holes and precipices under the snow, which are full of danger.

### RED GROUSE.

THIS bird inhabits the most dreary and inhospitable regions of the British Empire, and does not appear to have

found its way to any other part of the world. It weighs about twenty ounces, and measures sixteen inches. The head and neck are pale tawny, spotted black; the under parts dull purplish-brown, crossed with narrow dusky

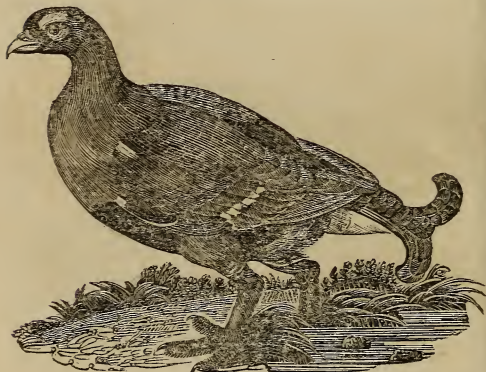


lines; above the eye is a scarlet fringed membrane bare of feathers. It lives wholly in the open moors, building its nest in a tuft of heath, and feeding on mountain and bog berries. This bird is sometimes called the Moor Fowl.

### BLACK GROUSE.

THIS bird, sometimes called the Black Cock, is confined to the more Northern Parts of Great Britain, and is nowhere so abundant as in the highlands of Scotland. It sometimes weighs as much as four pounds, and is twenty-

three inches in length. The head, neck, and whole body are of glossy blue black; the wing coverts dusky brown; the tail consists of sixteen black feathers. The female weighs about two pounds, and its plumage differs much

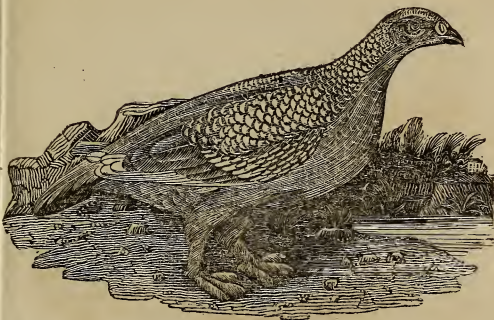


from that of the male. She lays six or seven dirty white eggs, blotched with rust colour, about the size of those of a pheasant. These are deposited among the highest heath, without much appearance of a nest. The food of this species is chiefly the tops of heath and birch.

### WHITE GROUSE.

THIS bird is found in most northern regions. It is ash coloured in summer, but in autumn its hue changes to a pure white. It makes no nest, but deposits ten or twelve eggs on the bare ground, amongst the rocks. These are

of a dirty white, spotted with rufous brown. This bird is



known by the name of the Ptarmigan. In Nova Scotia there is a bird resembling it, which is called the Birch Partridge.

### THE PHEASANT.

THE Pheasant is a native of Asia, whence it was first introduced into Europe. Next to the peacock it is the most beautiful of birds, as well for the vivid colour of its plumes, as for their beautiful mixtures and varieties. It is far beyond the power of the pencil to draw any thing so glossy, so bright, or so finely blended. It is related that when Croesus, king of Lydia, was seated on his throne adorned in all the pomp of eastern magnificence, he asked Solon if he had ever beheld any thing so fine. The Greek philosopher calmly replied, that after having seen the beautiful plumage of the pheasant, he could be astonished at no other finery.



The iris of the eye in this bird is yellow, and the eyes themselves are surrounded with scarlet, sprinkled with small specks of black. On the fore part of the head there are blackish feathers mixed with a shining purple. The top of the head and the upper part of the neck are tinged with a darkish green that shines like silk. The feathers of the breast, the shoulders, the middle of the back, and the sides under the wings, have a blackish ground, with edges of an exquisite colour, which appears



sometimes black and sometimes purple, according to the different lights it is placed in. The tail is about eighteen inches long. There are black spurs on the legs, and a membrane connecting two of the toes together. The wings are short and not calculated for a protracted flight. The male is much more beautiful than the female.

Though so beautiful to the eye, this bird is not less delicate when served up at the table. Its flesh is considered as the greatest dainty. In the woods the hen pheasant lays from eighteen to twenty eggs in a season, but in a domestic state she seldom lays above ten.

When full grown this bird feeds indifferently upon eve-



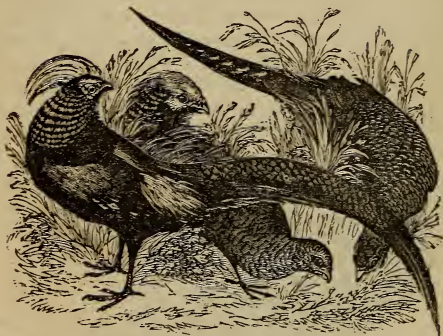
ry thing that offers. It is said by a French writer, that one of the king's sportsmen, on shooting at a parcel of crows that were gathered round a dead carcass, found to his great surprise that he had killed as many pheasants as crows. It has even been asserted that such is the carnivorous disposition of this bird, that when several of them are put together in the same yard, if one of them happens to fall sick, or seems to be suffering, all the rest will fall upon, kill and devour it.



RING-NECKED PHEASANT.

THIS bird is said to inhabit in China the same forests with the species common in Europe, but never to mingle with it in a state of nature. It is, however, less abundant in the north, where the other is most common.

## THE GOLDEN PHEASANT.



THIS magnificent creature is a native of China, and is the rarest and most beautiful of all the Pheasants that are met with in the European preserves and aviaries. The male bird, when in perfect plumage, measures nearly three feet in length, of which the tail alone forms about two thirds. The feathers of the fore part of the head are very long, silky, and of a bright yellow; they considerably overhang those of the hinder part, which are of a brilliant orange, marked with transverse black rays. These last are elongated and extended backwards over the sides of the neck, and may be raised or depressed at will. A few minute hairs are scattered over the cheeks, which are of a livid complexion. The feathers of the back of the neck are tinged with a mixture of green and gold, and bordered with black; those of the back and

the upper tail-coverts are bright yellow, the latter terminating in a crimson border.

## ENGLISH PARTRIDGE.

THERE are about twenty species of Partridges in different parts of the world, but they may all be arranged under two divisions, the grey and the red. The red Partridge is the larger of the two, and often perches upon trees; the grey, which is the common Partridge in England, is most prolific, and always keeps on the ground.

This bird is about thirteen inches in length. The general colour of its plumage is brown and ash, elegantly mixed with black; each feather is streaked down the middle with buff-colour. On the breast is a crescent of a deep chesnut colour, the tail is short, the legs are of a greenish white, and are furnished with a small knob behind. The bill is of a light brown. The female has no crescent on the breast, and her colours in general are not so distinct and bright as those of the male. They are generally from ten to fifteen in a covey; and, if unmolested, they live from fifteen to seventeen years.

The manners of the Partridge resemble all those of poultry in general; but their cunning and instinct seem superior to those of the larger kinds. The affection of the female for her young is particularly strong and lively, and in the case of rearing them she is greatly assisted by her mate. They lead them out in common, call them together, point out to them their proper food, and assist them in finding it by scratching the ground with their feet. They frequently sit close by each other, covering their young with their wings, like the hen. In this situation they are not easily flushed, but when they are at length compelled

to move, the male employs many interesting stratagems, such as fluttering along the ground, hanging his wings, and feigning to be wounded, in order to attract the pursuit of the enemy, and afford to the female an opportunity to escape with her infant brood. Partridges, though tamed when young, will almost invariably return to the wild state.



### AMERICAN QUAIL, OR PARTRIDGE.

THIS well known species inhabits the whole of North America. They rarely frequent the forest, and are most numerous in the vicinity of well cultivated plantations,

where there is plenty of grain. When not too much persecuted by the sportsmen, they become almost half domesticated; in winter they approach the barn, and mix with the poultry to glean up a subsistence. At this time, the gun and the trap make great havoc among them.

The Quail begins to build early in May. The nest is made on the ground, usually at the bottom of a thick tuft of grass that shelters and conceals it. The materials are leaves and fine grass. It is well covered above, and an opening is left on one side for an entrance. The young leave the nest as soon as they are freed from the shell, and are conducted about by the female in search of food. In this situation, should the little family be unexpectedly surprised, the mother instantly throws herself in the path, fluttering, and beating the ground, as if sorely wounded; using every artifice to entice the passenger in pursuit of herself, and uttering certain peculiar notes of alarm, well understood by the young, which dive separately among the grass, and secrete themselves till the danger is over. This well-known trick, nine times in ten, is successful; and the parent, having decoyed the pursuer to a safe distance, returns, by a circuitous route, to collect and lead off her young.

The eggs of the Quail have been frequently placed under the domestic hen, and hatched and reared with equal success as her own. The hen however ought to be a very good nurse, for the young Partridges are very restless and vagrant, and often lose themselves and disappear. Those that survive acquire all the familiarity of common chickens. Two of those birds that were brought up by a hen, when abandoned by her, associated with the cows, which they regularly followed to the fields, returned with them when they came home in the evening, stood by them while they

were milked, and again accompanied them to the pasture. They remained during the winter, lodging in the stable, but as soon as spring came, they disappeared.

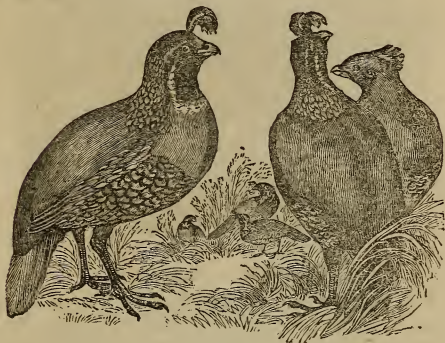
The Partridge has sometimes been employed to hatch the eggs of the common domestic hen. Several hen's eggs were substituted in place of those of a Partridge, and she brought out the whole, and was to be seen in various parts of the plantation, with her brood of chickens. On these occasions she exhibited her usual alarm, and practised her usual manœuvres for their preservation. Even after they were considerably grown, and larger than their nurse, she continued to lead them about. The manners of these chickens had all the shyness and timidity of young Partridges; running with great rapidity and concealing themselves in the grass on the slightest alarm. Soon after this, they disappeared, having probably been destroyed by dogs, by the gun, or by birds of prey.

The common call of the Partridge consists of two notes, and is similar to the sound produced by pronouncing the words "Bob White." It feeds upon grain, seeds, insects and berries of various kinds. Buckwheat and Indian corn are particular favourites. Like all the rest of the gallinaceous tribe, it flies with a loud whining sound, occasioned by the shortness, concavity and rapid motion of its wings, and the comparative weight of its body. The flesh of this bird is peculiarly white, tender and delicate.

The Partridge is nine inches long. It is of a red brown colour, sprinkled with black. The under parts are white, spotted with black, and the sides of the neck spotted with white. The female differs in having the chin and sides of the head yellowish brown, in which dress it has been described as a different kind. There is however only one species known within the United States.

## CALIFORNIAN QUAIL.

THE general colour of the upper part of the body and wings in this bird, is of a dusky brown, assuming a leaden or slaty tinge on the tail, and on the fore part of the breast, upon which it advances in the form of a broad band. The fore part of the head is of a mixed ash grey, and the hinder part blackish brown.



For the first notice of these beautiful birds we are indebted to the Editor of the Voyage of the unfortunate La Perouse, who gave a figure of them in the Atlas to that work, merely mentioning in the text that they were plentiful in the low woods and plains of California, where they assembled in bands of two or three hundred, and became fat and well flavoured.

An attempt has recently been made by Captain Beechey to introduce a number of living specimens of this bird in-



to England. Unfortunately all the females died upon the passage, and of the males only one survived. Their manners seem to be the same with those of the Quails and Partridges, but they have a much more erect and graceful bearing.



### THE WELCOME QUAIL.

THIS bird is a native of America. Its crest is short, straight, directed backwards, and composed of about half a dozen elongated feathers of a pale brown colour. The back is of a grizzled brown, with dark patches. The under surface of the body is dark brown, copiously marked with rounded spots which are nearly of a pure white. The bill is black and the claws are horn coloured.

### THE CURASSOW.

THIS bird bears much resemblance to the pheasant, though naturalists have agreed in considering it as a distinct genus. It comprehends four or five species, which



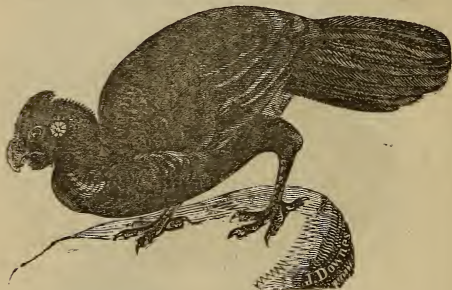
belong only to the warm climate of America. They are mostly about the size of a small turkey, and are generally distinguished by a crest of feathers which curl at the ends. This crest can be raised or depressed at will. The plumage of the Crested Curassow is of a deep black, with a slight gloss of green upon the head, crest, neck, back, wings and upper part of the tail; and dull white beneath, and on the lower tail coverts.



There is another species which is called the *Cashew Curassow*, or *Cashew Bird*, from a large blue gibbosity, resembling a Cashew nut, and as large as a pear, which is situated at the base of the forehead. The whole bird is of a shining blueish colour, reflecting purple glosses; except

the lower part of the belly, the covert feathers, under the tail, and the tips of the tail feathers, which are white.

In Mexico, Guiana, and Brazil, these birds are very numerous, both in a wild and tame state. The flesh is excellent.



RAZOR-BILLED CURASSOW.

THE distinguishing character of this species consists in the form of the horny process that surmounts its bill, which rises above the level of the head, is flattened on the sides, runs anteriorly into a sharp edge, spreads out at the base, where it is continuous with the bill, and is like it of a bright red. The whole of the upper parts, the fore part of the neck, the breast, and the legs, are black with a violet or purple gloss. The tail is of the same colour for the greater part of its length, but terminates in a white band. Above the base of the bill, which is covered with short velvety feathers concealing the nostrils, is a tuft of

straight feathers; the iris is dusky, and the naked legs are reddish brown. In the young bird, the horny process of the bill is smaller and less intensely red.



### THE GUAN.

THE manners of the Guans have little to distinguish them from those of the Curassows. They have not been introduced into Europe in equal numbers with the latter birds; though there can be little doubt that with proper care and attention they might be added to domesticated fowls. They are spoken of as furnishing an excellent dish for the table. In a wild state they inhabit Guiana and Brazil, and perhaps extend still farther to the north. Their food consists principally of seeds and fruits, which they search for and eat upon the ground; but the greater part of their existence is passed upon the trees, on the tops of which they perch, and in which they build their nests.

## SUPERB MENURA.

THIS singular bird is a native of New-Holland. It is about the size of the Hen-Pheasant; its length is three



feet and a half from the point of the beak to the longest tail feather; the general colour is brown; the tail consists of sixteen feathers, twelve of which are very curiously webbed.

## THE TAME PIGEON.

ALL the beautiful varieties of this bird are said to derive their origin from the Stockdove, the English name, implying that it is the stock or stem whence other domestic kinds have been propagated. In its natural state, the Pigeon is of a deep blueish ash colour; the breast dashed with a fine changeable green and purple; its wings marked with two black bars; and the tail barred near the end with black. These are the colours of the Pigeon in a state of nature, though a great variety in its form and colour has been produced by the art of man. The Stockdove usually builds in holes of rocks or in excavated trees. Its murmuring note at morning and dusk is highly pleasing.

The Dovehouse Pigeon breeds every month, laying two eggs which most usually produce young ones of different sexes. From three or four o'clock in the evening till nine the next day, the female sits on the eggs: she is then relieved by the male, who takes his place from ten till three, while his mate is feeding abroad. The incubation continues eighteen or twenty days. If, during this term, the female delays to return at the expected hour, the male follows and drives her to the nest, and should he in his turn be dilatory, she retaliates with equal severity.

The hen Pigeon however is so constant to her eggs, that one, whose legs were frozen and dropped off, continued to sit, notwithstanding the pain which she endured with the loss of her limbs, till her young were hatched. Her legs were frozen by her nest being too near the entrance of the dovecote, and consequently exposed to the cold.

The young ones when hatched require no food for the three first days, only wanting to be kept warm. This care

of them the female now takes entirely upon herself. During this period she never stirs out, except for a few minutes to take a little food. From this they are fed for eight or ten days with corn or grain of different kinds, which the old ones gather in the fields and keep treasured up in their crops, to supply their greedy demands.

Most birds drink by sipping at intervals; the Pigeon takes a long continued draught, like a quadruped.

Those Pigeons which are called Carriers, and are used to convey letters, are easily distinguished from all others by their eyes, which are surrounded by a broad circle of naked white skin, and by being of a dark blue or blackish colour. It is from their attachment to their native place and the place where they have brought up their young, that these birds are employed as the most expeditious Carriers. They are first brought from the place where they were bred, and whither it is the intention to send them back with information. The letter is tied under the bird's wing, and after feeding it well, lest it should stop by the way to eat, it is let loose to return. The little creature no sooner finds itself at liberty, than the passion for its native spot guides all its motions. It is seen upon these occasions, flying directly into the clouds to an amazing height, and then with the greatest certainty and exactness darting by some surprising instinct towards home, which lies sometimes at many miles distance. It is said that, in the space of an hour and a half, they sometimes perform a journey of forty miles.

The varieties of the tame Pigeon are very numerous. There are many species of the wild Pigeon differing from the Stockdove. The RINGDOVE is of the number, a good deal larger than the former, and building its nest with a

few dry sticks in the boughs of trees. This seems a bird, much fonder of its native freedom than the former; and frequent attempts to render it domestic have hitherto proved fruitless. Their eggs have been hatched by the tame pigeon in a dove-house, yet as soon as the young birds could fly, they always betook themselves to the woods where they were first produced. This is the largest Pigeon of England, it being eighteen inches in length. It derives its name from a beautiful white circle round the neck.



### THE TURTLE DOVE.

THIS bird is smaller and much shyer than any of the former. It may be easily distinguished from the rest by the iris of the eye, which is of a fine yellow, and by a beautiful crimson circle that encompasses the eyelids. The Turtle-dove is a bird of passage, and few or none remain in the northern climates of Europe in winter. It arrives late in the spring and departs about the latter end of August.

The Turtle-doves fly in flocks when they go to breed in England in summer, and delight in open, mountainous, sandy countries. They build their nests in the midst of

woods; but may yet be tamed, and even brought to propagate in dove-houses like the tame Pigeon. The note of this bird is singularly tender and plaintive; in addressing his mate, the male makes use of a variety of winning attitudes, cooing at the same time in the most gentle and soothing accents. Their fidelity has furnished poets and sentimentalists with beautiful allusions; and it is generally asserted that if a pair be put into a cage and one of them die, the other will not survive it.



### CAROLINA PIGEON, OR TURTLE DOVE.

THIS bird in summer is a general inhabitant of the United States, from Canada to Florida, and from the sea-coast to the westward of the Mississippi. In the northern and middle States they are partially migratory. On their arrival in the north in March, and early in April, they disperse so generally over the country, that there are rarely more than three or four seen together. They commonly fly in pairs, resort constantly to the public roads to dust themselves and procure gravel, and are often seen in the



farmer's yard in search of food. They frequently mix with the poultry while they are fed in the morning, and seem little inferior in familiarity to the domestic pigeon.

Their flight is quick, vigorous, and accompanied by a peculiar whistling of the wings. They feed on the berries of the holly, the dogwood, partridgeberries, the small acorns, and are very fond of buckwheat, hempseed and Indian corn. Peas are also quite agreeable to them, and they devour large quantities of gravel.

The nest of this bird is rudely constructed, generally in an evergreen, in the thick foliage of the vine, in an orchard, on the horizontal branches of an apple tree, and sometimes on the ground. It is composed of a handful of small twigs, laid with little art, and thinly covered with dry fibrous roots; and in this almost flat bed are deposited two eggs of a snowy whiteness. The male and female unite in feeding the young, and they have rarely more than two brood in the same season.

This is a favourite bird with all those who love to wander among the woods in spring, and listen to their varied harmony. They will hear many a singular and sprightly performer, but none so mournful as this. Its notes are four; the first is somewhat the highest and seems to be uttered with an inspiration of the breath, as if the afflicted creature were just recovering its voice from the last convulsive notes of distress; this is followed by three long, deep and mournful moanings that no one can listen to without sympathy. A pause of a few minutes ensues, and the solemn voice of sorrow is again renewed. There is nothing however of real distress in all this. It is the voice of love, of faithful connubial affection; and the bird who utters it wantons by the side of his beloved partner, or invites her by his call to some favourite retreat.

The Turtle dove is twelve inches long, with an eye of glossy blackness ; crown, and upper part of the neck and wings, a fine silky slate blue ; forehead, sides of the neck and breast a pale brown orange ; under the ear feathers, a spot or drop of deep black, immediately below which the plumage reflects the most vivid tints of green, crimson and gold. The female is an inch shorter, and is otherwise only distinguished by less brilliancy of colour.



### PASSENGER PIGEON.

THESE birds inhabit a wide and extensive portion of North America, and in their manner of associating together in prodigious numbers, both in their migrations, and during the period of incubation, are very remarkable. These migrations appear to be undertaken rather in quest

of food than to avoid the cold of the climate, as they are very casual and irregular.

The fertile regions of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, abound with the beech nuts which constitute the chief food of the wild pigeon. In seasons when these nuts are abundant, millions of these birds may be confidently expected. It sometimes happens that, having consumed the whole produce of the beech trees, in an extensive district, they discover another at the distance perhaps of sixty or eighty miles, to which they regularly repair every morning and return as regularly in the course of the day, or evening, to their place of general rendezvous ; or, as it is usually called, the roosting place.

These roosting places are always in the woods, and sometimes occupy a large extent of forest. When they are first discovered, the inhabitants from considerable distances visit them in the night with guns, clubs, long poles, pots of sulphur, and various other engines of destruction. In a few hours, they fill many sacks and load their horses with the birds. By the Indians, a pigeon roost, or breeding place, is considered an important source of national profit and dependence for the season.

The breeding places differs from the roosts in their greater extent. Not far from Shelbyville, in the State of Kentucky, a few years ago, there was one of these breeding places, which was several miles in breadth, and was said to be upwards of forty miles in length. In this tract almost every tree was furnished with nests, wherever the branches could accommodate them. The Pigeons made their first appearance there about the tenth of April, and left it altogether, with their young, before the twenty-fifth of May.

As soon as the young were fully grown, and before

they left their nests, numerous parties of the inhabitants came from all quarters of the adjacent country, with waggons, axes, beds, cookery utensils, many of them accompanied by the greater part of their families, and encamped for several days at this immense nursery. The noise in the woods was so great as to terrify the horses, and it was difficult for one person to hear another speak without bawling in his ear. The ground was strewn with broken limbs of trees, eggs and young squab Pigeons, which had been precipitated from above and on which herds of hogs were fattening. Hawks, buzzards, and eagles were sailing about in great numbers, and seizing the squabs from their nests at pleasure ; while from twenty feet upwards to the tops of the trees, the view through the woods presented a perpetual tumult of crowding and fluttering multitudes of Pigeons, whose wings were roaring with a noise like thunder. This was mingled with the crash of the trees that were cut down by the axe men, and which brought down several others in their fall. By this means the falling of one large tree sometimes produced two hundred squabs, little inferior in size to the old one, and almost one mass of fat.

The nest of the wild Pigeon is formed of a few dry slender twigs, carelessly put together, and is very shallow. The eggs are pure white. Great numbers of hawks, and sometimes the bald eagle himself, hover about these breeding places and seize the old or young from the nest, amidst the rising multitudes, and with the most daring effrontery. When beginning to fly, the young confine themselves to the under part of the tall woods, where there is no brush and where nuts and acorns are abundant, and appear like a prodigious torrent rolling along, every one striving to be in the front. Vast numbers of them are shot while in this situation.

The migrations of these birds are thus noticed by Mr. Audubon. "Their great power of flight enables them when in need, to survey and pass over an astonishing extent of country in a very short time. This is proved by facts known to the greater number of observers in America. Pigeons for example have been killed in the neighbourhood of New York with their crops still filled with rice, collected by them in the fields of Georgia and Carolina, the nearest point at which this supply could possibly have been obtained; and, as it is well ascertained, that owing to their great power of digestion, they will decompose food entirely in twelve hours, they must have travelled between three hundred and four hundred miles in six hours, making their speed at an average about one mile in a minute, and this would enable one of these birds, if so inclined, to visit the European continent, as swallows are undoubtedly able to do, in a couple of days."

"This great power of flight is seconded by as great a power of vision, which enables them as they travel at that swift rate, to view objects below, to discover their food with facility, and thus put an immediate end to their journey. This I have also proved to be the case, by having observed the Pigeons, when passing over a destitute part of the country, keep high in air, and in such an extensive front, as to enable them to survey hundreds of acres at once. But if on the contrary, the land is richly covered with food, or the trees with mast, they will fly low, in order to discover the portion most plentifully supplied, and upon these they alight progressively."

"The form of the bodies of these swift travellers is an elongated oval, steered by a long well-plumed tail, furnished with extremely well set and very muscular wings

for the size of the individual. If a single bird is seen gliding through the woods and close by, it passes apparently like a thought; and on trying to see him again, the eye searches in vain—the bird is gone!”

“Their multitudes in our woods are astonishing, and it is extremely curious to see flock after flock follow exactly the very evolutions performed by a preceding one, when they arrived at the place where these manœuvres were displayed. If a hawk, for instance, has chanced to charge on a portion at a certain spot, no matter what the zigzags, curved lines, or undulations of lines might have been during the affray, all the following birds always keep the same track; so that if the traveller happens to see one of those attacks, and feels a wish to have it repeated, he may do so by waiting for a short time.”

“It may not perhaps be out of place, to attempt an estimate of the number of Pigeons contained in those migratory flocks, and the quantity of food consumed by their members. The inquiry will show the astonishing bounty of the Creator in his works, and how universally this bounty has been granted to every living thing on the vast continent of America.”

“We shall take, for example, a column of one mile in breadth, which is far below the average size, and suppose it passing over us without interruption for three hours, at the rate of one mile per minute. This will give us a parallelogram of one hundred and eighty miles by one, covering one hundred and eighty square miles, and allowing two Pigeons to the square yard, we have one billion, one hundred and fifteen millions, one hundred and thirty-six thousand Pigeons in one flock; and as every Pigeon consumes fully half a pint of food per day, the quantity must

be eight million, seven hundred and twelve thousand bushels per day, which is required to feed such a flock."

"As soon as these birds discover a sufficiency of food to entice them to alight, they fly round in circles, reviewing the country below, and at this time exhibit their phalanx in all the beauties of their plumage ; now displaying a large glistening sheet of bright azure, by exposing their backs to view, and suddenly veering exhibit a mass of rich deep purple. They then pass lower, over the woods, and are lost among the foliage for a moment, but they reappear as suddenly above ; after which they alight, and, as if affrighted, the whole again take to wing, with a roar equal to loud thunder, and wander swiftly through the forest to see if danger is near. Impelling hunger, however, soon brings them all to the ground, and then they are seen industriously throwing up the fallen leaves to seek for the last beech-nut or acorn ; the rear ranks continually rising, passing over, and alighting in front in such quick succession, that the whole still bears the appearance of being on the wing. The quantity of ground thus swept up, or to use a French expression, *moissonnee*, is astonishing, and so clean is this work, that gleaners never find it worth their while to follow where the Pigeons have been. On such occasions, when the woods are thus filled with them, they are killed in immense numbers, yet without any apparent diminution. During the middle of the day, after their repast is finished, the whole settle on the trees to enjoy rest and digest their food ; but as the sun sinks in the horizon, they depart *en masse* for the roosting place, not unfrequently hundreds of miles off, as has been ascertained by persons keeping account of their arrival and of their departure."

This bird is sixteen inches long, with a black bill ; eye of brilliant fiery orange ; head, upper part of the neck and chin a fine slate blue ; lower part and sides of the neck resplendent changeable gold, green and purplish crimson. The female is about half an inch shorter, and with slight exceptions is like the male in colour, but less vivid, and more tinged with brown.



THE RAVEN.

THE Raven is about two feet in length. Its bill is strong and very thick at the base ; measuring something more than two inches and a half, and covered half way with strong hairs or bristles. The general colour of the



upper part, is a fine glossy black, reflecting a blue tint in particular lights ; the under parts are duller and of a dusky hue.

This bird is found in every region of the world, and is so strong and hardy that, when other birds seem numbed with cold, or pining with famine, the Raven is active and healthy, busily employed in prowling for prey, or sporting in the coldest atmosphere. He bears the heat of the line, and the severe cold of the polar countries, with equal indifference. Sometimes in the rigorous climates of the north his plumage is milk-white.

The Raven may be reclaimed to almost every purpose to which birds can be converted. He may be trained up for fowling like a hawk ; he may be taught to fetch and carry like a spaniel, to speak like a parrot, and what is most extraordinary, to sing like a man. Indeed when domesticated, the Raven is very agreeable and amusing. Busy, inquisitive and impudent, he goes every where, affronts and drives off the dogs, plays his pranks on the poultry, and is particularly assiduous in cultivating the good will of the cookmaid. But in some respects he is very troublesome, being both a glutton and a thief. He does not confine himself to petty depredations on the pantry or the larder ; but will slyly seize upon a piece of money, a tea spoon or a ring, and if not watched will carry them to his favourite hole.

In a wild state the Raven is an active and greedy plunderer. Nothing comes amiss to him, but he can accommodate himself to fruits or insects, if he perceives no hope of his favourite carrion. This bird chiefly builds its nest in trees, and lays five or six eggs of a pale green colour marked with small brownish spots.

Notwithstanding the injury these birds do in picking out the eyes of sheep and lambs, when they find them sick and helpless, a vulgar respect is paid to them as being the birds that fed the prophet Elijah in the wilderness. This prepossession in favour of the Raven is of very ancient date, as the Romans themselves, who thought the bird ominous, paid it, from motives of fear, the most profound veneration. One of these that had been kept in the temple of Castor, as Pliny informs us, flew down into the shop of a tailor, who took much delight in the visits of his new acquaintance. He taught the bird several tricks; but particularly to pronounce the names of the Emperor Tiberius and the whole royal family. The tailor was beginning to grow rich by those who came to see this wonderful Raven, till an envious neighbour, displeased at the tailor's success, killed the bird, and deprived the tailor of his hopes of future fortune. The Romans, however, took the poor tailor's part; they punished the man who offered the injury, and were silly enough to give the Raven all the honours of a magnificent interment.

The Raven is said to be one of the most long-lived of birds. It possesses a good appetite, and takes much exercise, and has been known to live near a hundred years.

### THE COMMON CROW.

THIS bird is about eighteen inches in length. It inhabits the same countries with the raven, and is more frequently found. Crows live mostly in woods, generally in pairs, and build their nests on trees; the female lays five or six eggs. They remain in England all the year. They feed on eggs, worms, insects, grain, and on putrid flesh of

every description. The Crow is a bold bird, and besides defending his nest from the kite, buzzard and raven, will not hesitate, for his own gratification to attack pigeons, young ducks, chickens and rabbits. It has been known to bring the peregrine falcon to the ground by a single stroke of the bill. This bird is abundant in America, where it seems to be more familiar in its habits, than in Europe.

### THE ROOK.

THIS bird very much resembles the common crow, but has a more glossy plumage. The base of the bill and nostrils, as far as the eyes, is naked, in which it differs from all the rest of this genus. Rooks commit great depredations upon the cornfields, but are useful in preventing a too great increase of that very destructive insect the dor-beetle. They live together, and fly in immense flocks at morning and evening, to and from their roosting places in quest of food. During the breeding time they live together in large societies, building their nests on the tallest trees, frequently in the midst of large and populous towns. These rookeries are often the scenes of bitter contest: new comers are frequently attacked by the old inhabitants, their half built nests torn in pieces, and themselves obliged to seek shelter in some unoccupied situation. But though quarrelsome neighbours, the males are excellent husbands, and are very attentive in feeding their mates before and during the whole season of incubation. These birds are very sagacious, and are quite sensible that they are in greater danger from a man when he is armed with a gun, than when he has no weapon with him. If in the spring of the year, a person with a gun walks under a rookery, the birds rise on their wings, and scream to the unfledged

young to come into their nests. From this uniform occurrence, the country people assert that Rooks can smell gunpowder. This bird is not a native of America.

### THE JACKDAW.

THIS bird is about thirteen inches in length, with a large head and a long bill. The eyes are white, and the hinder parts of the head and neck are of a hoary grey colour; the rest of the plumage is of a fine glossy black above, and of a dusky hue below. It remains in England the whole year, and frequents in great flocks churches, old towers and ruins, and sometimes chimneys, hollow trees, and rabbit burrows, where it builds its nest. The female lays five or six eggs of a greenish colour. Jackdaws are easily tamed, and may be taught to pronounce several words. They are notorious thieves, concealing their food, pieces of money, and toys, and have been known to carry off spectacles from persons who were reading. They feed on insects, grain, fruit, small pieces of flesh, partridges' eggs, and have also been seen to catch fish.

There is a variety of this bird in Switzerland, which has a white collar round its neck; in Norway and other cold countries they have been found perfectly white. They are not found in America.

### THE PIPING CROW.

THIS bird is a common inhabitant of New South Wales, though it has but recently been made known to European naturalists. One of the species was lately brought alive to France; it was very quiet and suffered itself to be carressed without exhibiting any uneasiness. On board ship, it was a source of great amusement in consequence

of the facility with which it mimicked the notes of other birds. In imitating the young cock in particular the de-



ception was complete, and it clucked and cockled like a hen. It was also taught to whistle a variety of airs.

These birds build their nests in trees, constructing them of sticks lined with grass. In the morning they make a loud whistling noise high up in the trees. They do not appear to be migratory, and are found only in particular places.

### THE MAGPIE.

THIS vain, restless and noisy bird is about eighteen inches in length, and of a very beautiful plumage. The head, neck and breast are of a deep black, which contrasts finely with the snowy whiteness of the under parts. The

neck feathers are very long and leave only a small space of a greyish ash colour, between them and the tail coverts which are black. The plumage in general is glossed with green, purple and blue; the tail is very long and in the



shape of a wedge. The under tail-coverts, thighs and legs are black.

The Magpie is not at all particular in its food. It not only feeds upon carrion, grain, and eggs, but upon worms

and insects, and upon small birds when it has an opportunity to seize them. A wounded lark, or a young chicken separated from the hen, are sure plunder, and even the blackbird is not altogether secure from attacks. With a providence unusual to gluttons, when satisfied for the present, the Magpie will lay up the remainder of the feast for another repast. Even in a tame state, it will hide its food, and after a time return to the secret hoard with great vociferation and a vigorous appetite.

This bird is exceedingly insolent, and delights in insulting the largest animals. It is often seen perched upon the back of an ox or a sheep, picking up the insects to be found there, chattering and tormenting the poor creature at the same time, and, if the beast turn its head backwards, impudently stretching out its neck for combat. It frequently commits depredations upon the nests of the thrush, the blackbird, and several other birds.

In all its habits it discovers a peculiar instinct. The nest is very ingeniously constructed and situated. It is usually placed in a conspicuous position, on the top of some high tree, or in the middle of a hawthorn bush, but always in a spot difficult of access. The body of the nest is composed of hawthorn branches, with the thorns sticking outwards. It is lined with fibrous roots, wool and long grass, and neatly plastered with mud and clay. To defend the nest above from the kite, the crow, and the sparrow-hawk, a canopy is constructed over it, composed of the sharpest thorns, so woven together as to deny all entrance except at the door, which is just large enough to permit egress and regress to the owners. Here the male and female hatch and bring up their brood with security; sheltered from all attacks, except the occasional intrusions

of the climbing schoolboys, who find their prizes too dearly bought by torn garments, scratched faces, and bloody hands. The Magpie lays six or seven eggs, of a pale green colour, spotted with brown.

This bird in a domestic state, strictly preserves its natural character. It is the same noisy, mischievous, cunning creature in the cage, as in the woods. It is exceedingly docile, and may sometimes be taught to speak very distinctly, though its sounds are too thin and sharp to be an exact imitation of the human voice. In the north of England, if a Magpie be observed flying alone, it is thought a sign of ill luck; two forbode something fortunate; three, a funeral; and four, a wedding. This bird is found in the western parts of North America, and is very numerous on the west side of the Rocky Mountains.

### THE BLUE JAY.

THIS elegant bird is peculiar to North America, and is distinguished among the feathered tenants of our woods by the brilliancy of his dress. He is very loquacious and coxcombical, and quite odd in his tones and gestures. He is eleven inches in length, and his head is ornamented with a crest of light blue or purple feathers which he can elevate and depress at pleasure. The whole upper parts are light blue or purple, with a collar of black passing down each side of the neck, and forming a crescent on the upper part of the breast. The under parts are white. The tail is long and light blue, tipped with black.

The Blue Jay is an almost universal inhabitant of the woods, frequenting the thickest settlements as well as the deepest recesses of the forest, where his squalling voice often alarms the deer, to the great mortification and disap-



pointment of the hunter. His notes bear some resemblance to the tones of the trumpet, though he has the faculty of changing them through a great variety of modulations. When disposed for ridicule, there is scarcely a



bird whose peculiarities he cannot imitate. When engaged in making love, his notes resemble the soft chatteringings of a duck, and at a few paces distance are almost inaudible; but on being disturbed, he sets up a sudden and vehement outcry, flying off and screaming with all his might. When he hops untroubled among the high branches of the oak and hickory, they become soft and

musical ; and his calls of the female would readily be mistaken by a stranger for the squeakings of an ungreased wheel-barrow. All these notes he accompanies with various peculiar nods, jerks and gesticulations.

The nest of this bird is built frequently in the cedar, sometimes on an apple tree, and is lined with dry fibrous roots. The eggs are five in number, of a dull olive, spotted with brown. The male makes his visits as secretly as possible, and is particularly careful not to be heard near the place. His favourite food consists of chestnuts, acorns, and Indian corn ; but he will sometimes eat bugs and caterpillars, and plunder the cherry row and potatoe patch. He frequently sneaks through the woods, and plunders every nest he can find, of its eggs and young ; and occasionally he assaults small birds with the intention of killing and devouring them.

Of all birds he is the most bitter enemy to the owl. No sooner does he discover the retreat of one of these, than he summons the whole feathered fraternity to assist in attacking him. They surround the glimmering *solitaire* from all quarters, and raise a shout that in a still day may be heard more than half a mile distant. The owl returns all this with a broad goggling stare ; till at length he is forced to betake himself to flight, followed by the whole train of his persecutors.

The following anecdote is related by Mr. Wilson, as an exception to the general audacious and plundering character of this bird. "A Blue Jay, which I have kept for some time, and with whom I am on terms of familiarity, is in reality a very notable example of mildness of disposition and sociability of manners. An accident in the woods first put me in possession of this bird, while in full

plumage and in high health and spirits ; I carried him home with me, and put him into a cage already occupied by a golden-winged woodpecker, where he was saluted with such rudeness and received such a drubbing from the lord of the manor, for entering his premises, that, to save his life, I was obliged to take him out again. I then put him into another cage, where the only tenant was a female oriole. She also put on airs of alarm, as if she considered herself endangered and insulted by the intrusion ; the Jay, meanwhile, sat mute and motionless on the bottom of the cage, either dubious of his own situation, or willing to allow time for the fears of his neighbour to subside. Accordingly, in a few minutes, after displaying various threatening gestures, she began to make her approaches, but with great circumspection and readiness for retreat. Seeing, however, the Jay begin to pick up some crumbs of broken chesnuts, in a humble and peaceable way, she also descended and began to do the same ; but at the slightest motion of her new guest, wheeled round and put herself on the defensive. All this ceremonious jealousy vanished before evening, and they now roost together, feed and play together, in perfect harmony and good humour. When the Jay goes to drink, his messmate very impudently jumps into the saucer to wash herself, throwing the water in showers over her companion, who bears it all patiently ; venturing now and then to take a sip between every splash, without betraying the smallest token of irritation. On the contrary he seems to take pleasure in his little fellow-prisoner, allowing her to pick (which she does very gently) about his whiskers, and to clear his claws from the minute fragments of chestnuts which happen to adhere to them. This attachment on the one part,

and mild condescension on the other, may, perhaps, be partly the effect of mutual misfortunes, which are found not only to knit mankind, but many species of inferior animals, more closely together; and shows that the disposition of the Blue Jay may be humanized, and rendered susceptible of affectionate impressions, even for those birds which, in a state of nature, he would have no hesitation in making a meal of."



THE HOOPOE.

OF this bird there is only one species known to Europeans, which is diffused over the whole of the Old Continent. It weighs above twelve ounces, and is twelve inches in length. The bill is long, black and somewhat curved. The neck is a pale reddish brown; the under parts are white; the lesser coverts of the wing light brown; the back, scapulars and wings crossed with black and white, the tail white, marked with black in the form of a crescent. The distinguishing character of this bird is a beautiful crest of about two inches high, which is of a pale orange tipped with black, and which it can erect at pleasure. It is a solitary bird, living upon insects. In some places it is considered palatable food.

## THE KINGFISHER.

THE Kingfisher is not much larger than a swallow ; its shape is compact, though the legs are very small and the bill very long. Its colours however atone for whatever is inelegant in its form; the crown of the head and the wing-coverts are of a deep blackish green, spotted with bright azure ; the back and tail are of the most resplendent azure ; and the whole under side of the body is orange coloured. A broad mark of orange passes from the bill beyond the eyes ; the tail is short, and consists of twelve feathers of a rich deep blue. Of the tribe there are about thirty-six species.

## THE BELTED KINGFISHER.

THIS is the only species of Kingfisher found within the United States : and inhabits the banks and shores of all our fresh water rivers, from Hudson's Bay to Mexico. His voice, which is not unlike the twirling of a watchman's rattle, is naturally loud, harsh and sudden ; but is softened by the sound of the brawling streams and cascades among which he generally rambles. He courses along the windings of the brook or river : or sits perched upon a bough overhanging the torrent or cataract, glancing his piercing eye in every direction for his scaly prey, which with a sudden circular plunge, he sweeps from their native element and swallows in an instant. Mill-dams, and the high clayey or sandy banks overlooking rapid streams, are particularly visited by the feathered fisher. Into these banks, he digs horizontally, with his bills and claws, sometimes to the extent of four or five feet. The nest is con-

structed of loose grass and a few feathers, and the eggs are five, of a pure white. They are very tenacious of their haunts, breeding for several successive years in the same hole, and seldom forsaking it even though it be visited.



This bird is twelve inches and a half long; the back and whole upper parts are of a light bluish slate colour; round the neck is a collar of pure white, which reaches before to the chin; the head is large and crested; the feathers are long and narrow, black in the centre, and generally erect; the breast is brown and blue, the under

parts white. The female is sprinkled all over with specks of white; the head is of a much darker blue than the back, and the white feathers on the chin and throat are of an exquisitely fine and glossy texture, like the most beautiful satin.

### THE CUCKOO.

THIS bird is conspicuous for the lightness and elegance of its form, and for its peculiar habits, though it cannot boast of much beauty and variety of plumage. It is about fourteen inches in length, shaped somewhat like a magpie, and distinguished from all other birds by its round prominent nostrils. The head, neck, back and wing coverts are of a dove colour; the throat is a pale grey; the under parts are white, crossed with many lines of black. The legs are of a yellow colour, and the claws white. The plumage of the young birds is chiefly brown, mixed with a ferruginous hue and black. The note of this bird is pleasant though uniform, and is heard earlier or later as the season seems to be more or less forward. There is a popular superstition in England that he who hears the Cuckoo before he has heard the nightingale will be unsuccessful in love.

The female Cuckoo makes no nest of her own, but usually repairs to the nest of some other bird, the water wagtail, perhaps, or the hedge sparrow, and having devoured the eggs of the owner, lays her one speckled egg in the place. This the stranger hatches with great assiduity, and finds no difference between the ill-looking changeling that comes from it and her own offspring. To supply this voracious creature, the nurse toils with unusual labour, little sensible that she is feeding an enemy to her

race, and one of the most destructive robbers of her future progeny.

It frequently happens from this intrusion that not more than two or three of the parent bird's eggs are hatched, but it has never been observed that the egg of the Cuckoo has either been thrown out or injured. The newly-hatched Cuckoo itself also contrives to raise up the young and throw them out of the nest. For this purpose Nature seems to have provided by giving it a broad back with a considerable depression in the middle; a shape which it loses as soon it as has no longer any use for it. When the hedge sparrow has set her usual time, and disengaged the young Cuckoo and some of her own offspring from the shell, her own young ones and any of her eggs that remain unhatched are turned out of the nest. The young bird generally continues three weeks in the nest before it flies; and the foster parent feeds it more than five weeks after this period.

All the little birds of the grove seem to consider the young Cuckoo as an enemy, and revenge the cause of their kind by repeated insults. They pursue it whenever it flies, and oblige it to take shelter in the thickest branches of some neighbouring tree. The wryneck in particular is very active in the chase, and thence has been called by many the Cuckoo's attendant and provider. It follows however with no friendly intention, but only as an insulter or spy, to warn its companions of the Cuckoo's depredations.

The Cuckoo feeds upon bread or corn, but its favourite nourishment consists of flesh and insects. It has a very capacious stomach, and is naturally very voracious. Some have supposed that this bird remains torpid during part of



the year, concealed in hollow trees, and others that it migrates into warmer climates. The latter opinion is the most probable.

### THE YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.

THIS bird is known in many parts of the United States by the name of Cow-Bird from its peculiar note; and it is also called in Virginia the Rain Crow, from being most clamorous just before rain. It is shy and solitary, uttering from the thickest foliage of the retired wood its uncouth, guttural note, resembling the syllables *kowe, kowe kowe kowe*, beginning slowly but ending so rapidly that the notes seem to run into each other. It is migratory, and every where prefers the borders of solitary swamps and apple orchards.

The nest of this bird is usually fixed among the horizontal branches of an apple tree, sometimes in a solitary thorn, crab or cedar, in some retired part of the woods. It is quite flat, and constructed with little art, of small sticks and twigs, intermixed with green weeds, and blossoms of the common maple. On this bed the eggs of a greenish blue colour and usually three or four in number, are placed. Both parents unite in providing food for the young; and this for the most part consists of caterpillars. The same insects constitute their own sustenance. They are accused of sucking the eggs of other birds, like the crow, the blue jay and other pillagers. They occasionally eat various kinds of berries.

This bird is thirteen inches long; the whole upper parts are of a dark glossy drab, with greenish silky reflections; the tail is long, composed of ten feathers; the whole lower parts are pure white. The legs and feet are

light blue, the bill is long, a little bent, very broad at the base, dusky black above and yellow below. The eye is hazel, feathered close to the eyelid, which is yellow.

### THE BEE CUCKOO.

THIS is the most singular bird of this genus. It is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, and has the faculty of pointing out to man and the quadruped called ratel, the nests of the wild bees. It is exceedingly fond of honey and of the bee maggots, and its services are generally rewarded by leaving it a small portion of the spoil. In its appearance it somewhat resembles the common sparrow, except that it is a trifle larger, and of a lighter colour. It has a white spot on each shoulder, and its tail feathers are dashed with white.

It comes forth for its meals in the morning and evening, with a grating cry of *cheer, cheer, cheer*, to excite the attention of the ratel as well as of the Hottentots and colonists. The persons thus invited follow the bird towards the quarter where the bees have taken up their abode ; answering it now and then with a soft and gentle whistle. When the bees' nest is at some distance, the bird often makes long stages of flights, waiting for its sporting companions between each flight, and calling to them again to come on. When, through impatience, it has sometimes got too far ahead of its followers, it has flown back to meet them, and redoubled its cries, as though reproaching them for being tardy. When it comes to the bees' nest, whether in the cleft of a rock, the hollow of a tree, or a cavity in the earth, it hovers over the spot for a few seconds ; after which it sets silently, and for the most part concealed, in some neighbouring trees, to receive its share of the booty.

## THE WOODPECKER.

THESE birds live chiefly upon insects contained in the body of trees, and are furnished with a straight, hard, strong, angular and sharp bill, made for piercing and boring. They have a very long round tongue, ending in a sharp, stiff, bony thorn, dentated on each side, to strike ants and insects when dislodged from their cells. Their legs are short and strong, for the purposes of climbing; and their toes stand two forward and two backward. They have hard stiff tails.

Of this bird there are more than fifty species, from the size of a wren to that of a jackdaw, and differing greatly in colour and appearance. There are five species known in England. They all feed upon insects, and particularly on those which are found in decaying trees.

When a Woodpecker finds a hollow or decaying tree where there are worms, ants' eggs, or insects, it immediately prepares for operations. Resting by its strong claws, and leaning on the ten hard, stiff and sharp-pointed feathers of its tail, it begins to bore with its powerful beak, until the internal habitation is laid open. It then sends forth a loud cry and feasts luxuriously on the whole brood of insects it finds there. It sometimes also tries its fortune at an ant-hill. Pecking with its beak, in order to call the inmates abroad, it thrusts out its long red tongue that resembles a worm which is their usual food. On this they settle in great numbers, when the bird, watching his chance, draws in his tongue at a jerk and devours the devourers.

## RED HEADED WOODPECKER.

THIS is one of the most conspicuous among the birds of North America. His tri-coloured plumage, red, white and black, glossed with steel blue, is so striking, and his



predatory habits in the orchards and cornfields are so very notorious, that almost every child is acquainted with the Red Headed Woodpecker. He is a bird of passage, though sometimes found even in the eastern states during moderate winters. His nest is formed in the bodies or large limbs of trees, and smoothed within to the proper shape and size. The female lays six eggs, of a pure white, marked with reddish spots, and the young make their first appearance about the twentieth of June.

These birds are extremely numerous towards the moun-

tains, particularly in the vicinity of creeks and rivers. Wherever there is a tree of the wild cherry, an apple or pear tree covered with ripe fruit, you may see them busy among the branches. When the Indian corn is in a rich, succulent, milky state, they attack it with great eagerness; and they are fond of the berries of the sour gum. They are gay and frolicksome, and towards fall gather round the barn or farm house, and rap on the shingles and weather boards. Their note is shrill and lively, and resembles that of a species of tree frog.

Though occasionally regaling himself upon fruit, the most natural and usual food of this bird consists of insects. That insects are his natural food is evident from the construction of his wedge-formed bill, the length, elasticity and figure of his tongue and the strength and position of his claws. He searches for them with great dexterity and intelligence, perceiving by the appearance of the bark where they lurk below, and rattling on the outside with his bill till his acute ear distinguishes the terrified vermin shrinking to their inmost retreats, where his pointed and barbed tongue soon reaches them.

Notwithstanding the care which this bird takes to place its young beyond the reach of enemies, within the hollow of trees, there is one foe against which it is impossible to protect them. This is the black snake, who often glides up the trunk of the tree into the Woodpecker's nest, devours the eggs and young, and if the cavity be large enough curls himself up in it and remains for several days. "The eager schoolboy," says Mr. Wilson, "after hazarding his neck to reach the Woodpecker's hole, at the triumphant moment when he thinks the nestling his own, and strips his arm launching it down into the cavity, and

grasping what he conceives to be the callow young, starts with horror at the sight of a hideous snake, and almost drops from his giddy pinnacle, retreating down the tree with terror and precipitation. Several adventures of this kind have come to my knowledge; and one of them that was attended with serious consequences, where both snake and boy fell to the ground; and a broken thigh and long confinement cured the adventurer completely of his ambition for robbing woodpeckers' nests."

This bird is nine inches and a half in length; has the head and neck deep scarlet; the bill light blue, black towards the extremity and strong; back and tail, black, glossed with steel-blue; whole under parts white; legs and feet bluish green; claws light blue; iris dark hazel. The female is rather smaller than the male, and somewhat less vivid in her colours.

### THE GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.

THIS bird has the back and wings above of a dark amber, transversely marked with equidistant streaks of black; throat and chin of a very light cinnamon or fawn colour; the breast ornamented with a broad crescent of deep black; the lower parts tinged with yellow, and scattered with innumerable round spots of black; the inner side of the wing and tail, and shafts of all the larger feathers are of a beautiful golden yellow. The bill differs somewhat from that of other woodpeckers, being long, slightly bent, ridged only on the top, and tapering almost to a point. The female differs from the male chiefly in the greater obscurity of the fine colours.

These birds are well known to farmers and sportsmen.

They begin to prepare their nest early in April, in the hollow body or branch of a tree. Their sagacity in discovering an unsound place under a sound bark, and their perseverance in perforating it, are truly surprising: the



male and female alternately relieving and encouraging each other, renewing their labours for several successive days, till they have provided themselves with spacious and convenient accommodations. They will sometimes work till a late hour in the evening. They carry in no materials for their nest, the soft chips and dust of the wood answering all their purpose. The female lays six white eggs, almost transparent.

The food of this bird varies with the season. It consists partly of common cherries, bird cherries and berries

of the sour gum, but principally of wood lice, and the young and larvae of ants.

The following anecdote is related by Mr. Wilson. "In rambling through the woods one day, I happened to shoot one of these birds and wounded him slightly on the wing. Finding him in full feather, and seemingly but little hurt, I took him home, and put him into a large cage, made of willows, intending to keep him in my own room, that we might become better acquainted. As soon as he found himself enclosed on all sides, he lost no time in idle fluttering, but, throwing himself against the bars of the cage, began instantly to demolish the willows, battering them with great vehemence, and uttering a loud piteous kind of cackling, similar to that of a hen when she is alarmed and takes to wing. Poor Baron Trenck never laboured with more eager diligence at the walls of his prison, than this son of the forest in his exertions for liberty; and he exercised his powerful bill with such force, digging into the sticks, seizing and shaking them so from side to side, that he soon opened for himself a passage; and, though I repeatedly repaired the breach, and barricaded every opening, in the best manner I could, yet on my return into the room I always found him at large, climbing up the chairs, or running about the floor, where, from the dexterity of his motions, moving backward, forward and sidewise, with the same facility, it became difficult to get hold of him again. Having placed him in a strong wire cage, he seemed to give up all hopes of making his escape, and soon became very tame; fed on young ears of Indian corn; refused apples, but ate the berries of the sour gum greedily, small winter grapes, and several other kinds of berries; exercised himself frequent-



ly in climbing, or rather hopping perpendicularly along the sides of the cage; and as evening drew on, fixed himself in a high hanging or perpendicular position, and slept with his head in his wing. As soon as dawn appeared, even before it was light enough to see him distinctly across the room, he descended to the bottom of the cage and began his attack on the ears of Indian corn, rapping so loud as to be heard from every room in the house. After this he would sometimes resume his former position and take another nap. He was beginning to become very amusing, and even sociable, when, after a lapse of several weeks, he became drooping, and died, as I conceived, from the effects of his wound."

### THE HUMMING BIRD.

AN European could never have imagined the existence of a bird so very small, and yet completely furnished with a bill, feathers, wings and intestines, exactly resembling those of the largest kind. A bird not so big as the end of one's little finger, would probably be supposed but a creature of fancy, were it not seen in infinite numbers sporting from flower to flower in the fields of America.

Of this charming little creature there are no less than sixty species, from the size of a small wren down to that of a bee. The smallest Humming Bird weighs about twenty grains. The feathers on its wings and tail are violet brown, but those on its body and under its wings are of a greenish brown; with a fine red cast or gloss, which no silk or velvet can imitate. The bill is black, straight, slender, and of the length of three lines and a half.

The *Ruby Crested Humming-Bird* is larger than the preceding. Its throat is like burnished gold glossed with emeralds; and it has a small green and gilded crest on its head, which sparkles in the sun like a little star.

The *Gold Throated Humming-Bird* is about half as big as the common wren, and on its throat and breast covered with changeable, crimson feathers, which in different lights change to a variety of beautiful colours, like an opal.

The *Ruby Necked* however is the most beautiful of the whole tribe. The upper parts of the body are brown, with a mixture of green gold; and the throat like the finest topaz. There are, indeed, Humming-Birds of almost every variety of colour; crimson, green, emerald, white breast, and spotted. Some of them are with and some without crests. The eyes of most of them are very small and as black as jet.

It is inconceivable how much these add to the beauty of a luxurious western landscape. As soon as the sun is risen, the Humming-Birds are seen fluttering and playing about the flowers. The wings are in such rapid motion that it is impossible to discern their colours, except by their glittering. They are in continual motion, visiting flower after flower and with their forked tongue extracting its honey.

The nest of these birds is suspended in the air at the point of the twigs of an orange, a pomegranate or a citron tree. The female is the architect, while the male seeks the cotton, fine moss, and vegetable fibres of which it is constructed. It is about the size of an hen's egg cut in two. The eggs are two in number, of the size of small peas, and as white as snow, with here and there a yellow speck. The time of incubation is about twelve days, and

the young are much about the size of a blue bottle fly. Beside the humming produced by the rapid motion of their wings, these birds have a little interrupted chirrup.

Small as the Humming-Bird is, great stories are told of its courage and violent passions. If it find a flower deprived of its honey, it will pluck it off, throw it on the ground, and sometimes tear it to pieces, and it often fights with desperate fury. It will allow a man to come within two yards of it before it will take to flight. These birds are caught by blowing water on them from a tube, or shooting at them with sand.

## THE HUMMING BIRD OF THE UNITED STATES.

THOUGH there are nearly seventy species of the Humming-Bird that are natives of America and its adjacent islands, there is only one that ever visits the territory of the United States. This bird is three inches and a half in length, with the back, neck and sides under the wings of a rich golden green, the tail and wings of a deep brownish purple, the bill and eyes black; the legs and feet, both of which are extremely small, are also black. The chief ornament of this little bird, however, is the splendour of his throat feathers, which in certain positions glow with all the brilliancy of a ruby. These feathers are of singular strength and texture, lying close together like scales, and varying when moved before the eye from a deep black to fiery crimson and burning orange. The female is destitute of this ornament, but in other respects differs but little from the male.

The Humming Bird makes its first appearance in Georgia from the south towards the end of March, and passes on to the northward as far as the interior of Canada, where it is seen in great numbers. Its minuteness, the rapidity of

its flight, its admirable instinct and daring courage enables it to make its way over extensive regions of lakes and forests, among so many enemies superior in strength and magnitude.

The nest of this bird is fixed on the body of an horizontal branch, seldom more than ten feet from the ground. In the woods, it is very often built on a white oak sapling, and in the orchard or garden on a pear tree. It is about an inch in diameter and as much in depth. The outward coat is formed of small pieces of a bluish grey lichen; within this are thick, matted layers of the fine wings of certain flying seeds; and the whole is lined with a downy substance from the great mullein. The eggs are two, of a pure white. If any one approaches the nest, the little proprietors dart around with a humming sound, frequently passing within a few inches of his head.

The Humming-Bird is extremely fond of tubular flowers, and particularly of the blossoms of the trumpet flower. When arrived before a thicket of these that are full blown, he poises himself steadily on wing for the space of two or three seconds, casting his eye round with great quickness and circumspection; the glossy golden green of his back and the fire of his throat brilliantly dazzling in the sun. He frequently alights, always preferring the small dead twigs of a tree or bush, where he dresses and arranges his plumage with great dexterity. His only note is a single chirp, not louder than that of a small cricket or grasshopper; generally uttered while passing from flower to flower, or when engaged in fights with his fellows. He is one of the few birds that are universally loved and admired.

Attempts have been made to raise these birds from the nest, and accustom them to the cage. A gentleman of

Virginia raised and kept two of them for some months; supplying them with honey dissolved in water, a food which appeared to be very pleasant. As the sweetness of this liquid frequently brought small flies and gnats about the cage and cup, the birds amused themselves by snapping at them on the wing and eagerly devouring them. Mr. Peale raised two Humming-Birds from the nest, which used to fly about the room, and frequently perch on the shoulder, to be fed. When the sun shone strongly into the chamber, they would dart after the motes that floated in the light, as flycatchers dart after flies.

The flight of the Humming-Bird from flower to flower resembles that of a bee, but is so much more rapid that the latter appears a mere loiterer to him. He poises himself on wing, while he thrusts his long slender tongue into the flowers in search of food. He sometimes enters a room by the window, examines the bouquets of flowers, and passes out by the opposite door or window. He has been known to take refuge in a hot-house during the cool nights of autumn; to go regularly out in the morning and return as regularly in the evening, for several days together.

### THE PARROT.

THIS bird is said to have been first introduced into Europe by Alexander the Great. Its chief attraction consists in its ability to utter articulate sounds, a gift which it possesses in far greater perfection than any other bird. Its voice is more like a man's than any other; the raven is too hoarse, and the jay and magpie are too shrill, but the Parrot's note is of the true pitch and capable of a variety of modulations. For this it is indebted to the form of its bill, tongue and head. In addition to the talent of speech,

the Parrot is endowed with a strong memory and with great sagacity.

A story is told by Willoughby of a Parrot belonging to King Henry the Seventh. This monarch was residing at Westminster, in his palace by the river Thames, and the bird had learned to talk many words from the passengers who happened to take water. One day, sporting on his perch, the poor bird fell into the water, at the same time crying out as loud as he could, *A boat, twenty pound for a boat.* A waterman who happened to be near, hearing the cry, made to the place where the Parrot was floating, and taking him up, restored him to the king. As it seems the bird was a favourite, the man insisted that he ought to have a reward rather equal to his service than his trouble; and, as the Parrot had cried out twenty pounds, he said the king was bound in honour to grant it. The king at last agreed to leave it to the Parrot's own determination, which the bird hearing, cried out, *Give the knave a groat.*

These birds are generally divided into four classes. The large kind, which are the size of a raven, are called Macaws, those of the next size are simply called Parrots; those entirely white are called Lories; and the smallest are called Parroquets or Parrakeets. They are alike in their general conformation, having toes, two before and two behind, for climbing and holding; strong hooked bills for breaking open nuts, and other hard substances on which they feed; and loud harsh voices by which they fill their native woods with clamour.

The Parrot, though common enough in Europe will not breed there. The climate is too cold for its constitution, and during the severer part of winter it loses both its spirits and appetite,

In their wild state, Parrots live together in flocks, and assist each other against other animals, either by their courage or their notes of warning. They generally breed in a round hole of a tree, and do not line their nest within. The female lays two or three eggs, about the size of those of a pigeon and marked with little specks. The young Parrots are much sought after by the natives, who cut down the trees in pursuit of their nests. The old ones are shot with heavy arrows headed with cotton, which knock them down without killing them. Hemp-seed, nuts, fruits of every kind, and bread soaked in wine, compose the food commonly given to these birds; meat makes them dull and heavy, and causes their feathers to drop off after some time.

#### THE BLUE AND YELLOW MACAW.



THE Macaws are characterized by their very broad and powerful beaks; the nakedness of the face; and the tail

which is longer than the body, is regularly graduated and terminates in an acute apex. All of them are natives of America, inhabit the tropical regions, and are remarkable for their vivid colouring. They subsist on fruits and seeds. This is one of the finest of these birds. A plumage of the most beautiful yellow covers the whole of its upper surface ; on the under parts the feathers are of a splendid yellow. The cheeks are white, slightly tinged with flesh colour, and the naked part is adorned with three lines of minute blackish feathers. Round the throat is a broad collar of greenish black ; and the forehead is of a yellowish green.

### CAROLINA PARROT.

THIS is the only species found native within the territory of the United States. The vast luxuriant tracts lying within the torrid zone appear to be the favourite residence of these noisy, numerous and richly plumaged tribes. The Carolina Parrot inhabits the interior of Louisiana, and the shores of the Mississippi and Ohio, east of the Alleghanies. Their private places of resort are low rich alluvial bottoms along the borders of creeks ; deep and almost impenetrable swamps filled with sycamore and cypress trees, and those singular salines or licks so interspersed over the western country. Here too is a great abundance of their favourite food. The seeds of the cypress tree and beech nuts are eagerly sought after by them.

The flight of these birds is easy and elegant, most usually circuitous, but sometimes in a direct line. They fly with great rapidity, in close compact bodies, like the Wild Pigeons, and making a loud and outrageous screaming. They generally roost in parties of thirty or forty, in



the hollow trunks of old sycamores; clinging fast to the sides of the tree, holding by their claws and bills. They appear to be fond of sleep, and are extremely social and friendly towards each other.



“At Big Bone Lick,” says Mr. Wilson, “thirty miles above the mouth of Kentucky river, I saw them in great numbers. They came screaming through the woods in the morning about an hour after sunrise, to drink the salt water, of which they, as well as the pigeons, are remarkably fond. When they alighted on the ground, it appeared

at a distance as if covered with a carpet of the richest green, orange and yellow; they afterwards settled, in one body, on a neighbouring tree, which stood detached from any other, covering almost every twig of it, and the sun, shining strongly on their gay and glossy plumage, produced a very beautiful and splendid appearance. Here I had an opportunity of observing some very peculiar traits of their character: having shot down a number, some of which were only wounded, the whole flock swept repeatedly around their companions and again settled on a low tree, within twenty yards of the spot where I stood. At each successive discharge, though showers of them fell, yet the affection of the survivors seemed rather to increase; for after a few circuits around the place, they again alighted near me, looking down on their slaughtered companions with such manifest symptoms of sympathy and concern as entirely disarmed me."

The Carolina Parrot is thirteen inches long; the forehead and cheeks are orange red; down and round the neck is a rich and pure yellow; the shoulder and bend of the wings are edged with rich orange red. The general colour of the rest of the plumage is a bright yellowish silky green, with light blue reflections. It is altogether superior to many of the foreign Parrots in elegance of figure and beauty of plumage. It is docile and sociable, and soon becomes perfectly familiar.

### THE ENGLISH NUTHATCH

WEIGHS near an ounce, and is five inches and three quarters in length. The bill is strong and straight, and measures three quarters of an inch. The upper part of the plumage is of a fine bluish grey; a black stroke runs from the mouth to the eye. The cheeks are white, and

the breast of a dull orange colour. This bird runs up and down the bodies of trees like the woodpecker. It feeds on insects and nuts, which it stores in the hollow parts of the tree. From this hoard it will bring out a nut, place it in a chink, and then standing above it, strike with all its force till it breaks the shell and catches up the kernel. It is said that this bird, by putting its bill into the crack of a tree can produce a violent sound, which may be heard at least one hundred and twenty yards. In some countries, from the noise which it produces in this manner, this bird is called the Loggerhead.

A recent writer has given an amusing account of the manners of a Nuthatch, which he wounded and was thus able to secure. He was small and fierce, and his bite would have made a child cry out. His wing was broken by the shot, and after this was cut off, the bird was put into a large cage with a common lark. After trying in vain to escape, the Nuthatch turned upon his new companion, and run under him with his gaping beak to bite. He was now removed into a smaller cage of plain oak wood and wire. Here he remained all night, and early next morning he commenced tapping or knocking with his beak. When food and water were placed before him, he eat and drank with the greatest impudence; and after satisfying himself, he turned again to battering the frame of his cage. He exerted his strongest taps on the extremities of the corner pillars; against the doorway, which he once succeeded in opening; and around the circular hole which is usually left in the wire to insert a glass for water. His labour was incessant and he ate as largely as he worked. His hammering was peculiarly laborious, for he did not peck as other birds do, but grasping his hold with his immense feet, he turned upon them as upon a pivot, and struck with

the whole weight of his body. At the interval of every ten minutes up to nine or ten in the night he resumed his knocking ; and it proved, as one of the family observed, that he was nailing his own coffin. A fluttering was heard in the cage, now covered with a hankerchief, and the poor bird was found at the bottom of his prison, with his feathers ruffled and nearly all turned back. He was taken out and after lingering some time in convulsions he died.

### THE TOUCAN.



Of this extraordinary bird there are about fifteen species. It is a native of Guiana and Brazil, and is said to be in great request in South America ; both from the delicacy of its flesh, and on account of the beauty of its plumage, particularly the feathers of the breast. The skin of this part the

Indians pluck off, and when dry glue to their cheeks. The bill of the Toucan is nearly as large as the rest of its whole body, and the tongue is feathered at the edges.

This bird is easily tamed, and will become very familiar, eating almost anything offered to it; in general it feeds on fruits. In its wild state it is a noisy bird, perpetually moving from place to place in quest of food, going northward or southward as the fruits ripen. It is very fond of grapes, and if these are plucked from the stalk one by one and thrown to it, the Toucan will catch them with great dexterity before they fall to the ground.

The Toucan builds its nest in the holes of trees, that are either formed by itself, or that it meets with from accident. It lays two eggs, and no bird better secures its young from external injury. It must guard them not only against birds, men and serpents, but a numerous train of prying, mischievous, and hungry monkeys. The Toucan however sits in its hole, defending the entrance with its great beak, and if the monkey venture to offer a visit of curiosity, he receives a welcome of a no very gratifying nature.

When in flocks, these birds on retiring to rest, generally appoint one to watch during the night. While they are asleep he sits perched at the top of a tree, above them, and makes a continual noise, resembling ill articulated sounds, moving his head during the whole time to the right and left. For this reason the South Americans give this bird the name of Preacher Toucan.

## THE GOLDEN EAGLE

Is one of the largest and noblest of all those birds that have received the name of Eagle. The length of the female is three feet and a half; it weighs from sixteen to

eighteen pounds ; but the male seldom weighs above twelve pounds. Its bill is three inches long, and of a deep blue ; and the eye of a very brilliant hazel colour. The sight and sense of smelling are very acute. The head and neck are clothed with narrow, sharp pointed feathers, of a deep brown colour, bordered with tawny ; but those on the crown



of the head, in very old birds, turn grey. The whole body is of a dark brown ; and the feathers of the back are finely clouded with a deeper shade of the same. The wings when clothed reach to the end of the tail. The quill feathers are of a chocolate colour, the shafts white. The tail is of a deep brown, irregularly barred and blotched with an obscure ash colour, and usually white at the roots of the

feathers. The legs are yellow, short and very strong, being three inches in circumference and feathered to the very feet. The toes are covered with large scales, and armed with the most formidable claws.

There are numerous species of Eagles, all of which are generally found in mountainous and ill-peopled countries, and breed among the loftiest cliffs. They choose those places most remote from man for their residence, and build their nests on the inaccessible cliffs. These are sometimes protected by a jutting crag, but are frequently wholly exposed to the winds ; for they are flat, though built with great labour. It is said that the same nest serves the Eagle during life, and the pains bestowed in forming it would seem to authorize that belief. When a male and female have paired they remain together till death.

The Eagle is at all times a formidable neighbour. He carries away hares, lambs, and kids ; often destroys fawns and calves, to drink their blood, and carries a part of their flesh to his retreat. An instance is related in Scotland of two children being carried off by Eagles : they fortunately received no harm by the way, and were restored unhurt out of the nests to the affrighted parents.

Some time ago, it happened that a peasant resolved to rob the nest of an Eagle, that had built in a small island in the beautiful lake of Killarney. He accordingly stripped and swam in upon the island, while the old ones were away ; and robbing the nest of its young, he was preparing to swim back, with the Eaglets tied in a string. While he was yet up to his chin in the water, the old Eagles returned, and missing their young, quickly fell upon the plunderer, and in spite of all his resistance, dispatched him with their beaks and talons.

Of all animals the Eagle flies highest, and on this ac-

count he was called by the ancients the Bird of Jove. Of all birds too he has the quickest eye, but his sense of smelling is far inferior to that of the vulture. His principal aliment is raw flesh.

The plumage of the Eaglets is not so strongly marked as it is when they come to be adult. They are at first white, then inclined to yellow, and at last light brown. Age, hunger, long captivity, and diseases, make them whiter. It is said that they live above an hundred years; and that they at last die, not of old age, but from the beak turning inward upon the under mandible, and thus preventing their taking any food. They are indeed equally remarkable for their longevity and for their power of sustaining a long absence from food.

### BIRD OF WASHINGTON.

THE following account of this noble bird, is from a description by the celebrated Audubon.

“It was on a winter’s evening, in the month of February, 1814, that, for the first time in my life, I had an opportunity of seeing this rare and noble bird; and never shall I forget the delight it gave me. Not even Herschel, when he discovered the famous planet which bears his name, could have experienced more happy feelings. To have something new to relate, to become yourself a contributor to science, must excite the proudest emotions of the human heart.”

“We were on a trading voyage, ascending the Upper Mississippi, the keen winter blasts whistled over our heads, and the cold from which I suffered, had, in a great degree, extinguished the deep interest which, at other seasons, this river has been wont to awake in me. I lay stretched beside our patroon; the safety of the cargo was forgotten, and



the only thing that called forth my attention was the multitude of ducks, of different species, accompanied by vast flocks of swans, which from time to time would pass us. My patroon, a Canadian, had been engaged many years in the fur trade; he was a man of much intelligence, who, perceiving that birds had engaged my curiosity, seemed



only anxious to find some new object to divert me. The Sea Eagle flew over us. 'How fortunate!' he exclaimed, 'this is what I could have wished. Look, Sir! the great

Sea Eagle, and the only one I have seen since I left the lakes.' I was instantly on my feet, and, having observed it attentively, concluded as I lost it in the distance, that it was a species quite new to me. My patroon assured me that such birds were indeed rare; that they sometimes followed the hunters, to feed on the entrails of animals they had killed, when the lakes were closed by the ice, but, when open they would dive in the day time after fish, and snatch them up in the manner of the fishing hawk; that they roosted generally on the shelves of the rocks, where they build their nests, of which he had discovered several by the quantity of white exuviae scattered below."

"My next meeting with this bird was a few years afterwards, whilst engaged in collecting cray fish, in one of those flats which border and divide Green River, in Kentucky, near its junction with the Ohio, from the range of high cliffs which, for some distance, follow the meanders of the stream. I observed on the rocks, which, at that place, are nearly perpendicular, a quantity of white ordure. Thinking that owls resorted thither, I mentioned it to my companions, when one of them, who lived within a mile and a half of the place, told me that it was from the nest of the brown Eagle; meaning the young of the white headed Eagle, with which he was acquainted. I assured him this could not be; and remarked that the old, as well as young, of that species never built in such places, but always in trees. Although he could not answer my objection, he stoutly maintained that a brown Eagle of some kind, above the usual size, had built there; he added that he had discovered the nest some days before, and had seen one of the old birds dive and catch a fish. This he thought strange, having, till then, always observed that brown and bald Eagles procured this kind of food by robbing the fish

hawks: but if I felt particularly anxious to know what nest it was, I might soon satisfy myself, as the old birds would come and feed their young with fish; he had seen them do so before. In high expectation, I seated myself about a hundred yards from the foot of the rock. Never did time pass more slowly; I could not help betraying the most impatient curiosity, for my hopes whispered it was a Sea Eagle's nest. Two long hours had elapsed before the old bird made his appearance, which was announced to us by the loud hissings of the two young ones, who crawled to the extremity of the hole to receive a fine fish. I had a perfect view of this noble bird as he held himself to the edging rock, his tail spread, and his wings partly so, and hanging something like the barn, bank or social swallow. I trembled lest a word should escape from my companions: the slightest murmur had been treason from them: they entered into my feelings, and, although little interested, gazed with me. In a few minutes, the other parent joined her mate, which, from the difference in size, the female being much larger, we knew to be the mother bird. She, also, had brought a fish; but, more cautious than her mate, ere she alighted, she glanced her quick and piercing eye around, and instantly perceived her procreant bed had been discovered; she dropped her prey, with a loud shriek, communicated the alarm to the mate, and hovering with him over our heads, kept up a growling threatening cry, to intimidate us from our suspected design. This watchful solicitude I have ever found peculiar to the female."

"The young having hid themselves, we went and picked up the fish which the mother had let fall; it was a white perch, weighing about five and a half pounds; the upper part of the head was broken in, and the back torn by the talons of the Eagle. We had plainly seen her bearing it in the manner of the fish hawk."

"This day's sport being at an end, as we journeyed homewards we agreed to return the next morning, being most anxious to procure both the old and young birds ; but rainy and tempestuous weather setting in, our expedition was obliged to be postponed till the third day following, when, with guns and men all in readiness, we reached the rock. Some posted themselves at the foot, others upon it, but in vain. We passed the entire day, without either seeing or hearing an Eagle ; the sagacious birds, no doubt, having anticipated an invasion, had removed their young to fresh quarters."

"I come at last to the day I had so often and so earnestly desired. Two years had gone by since the discovery of the nest, in fruitless excursions ; but my wishes were no longer to remain ungratified. In returning from the little village of Henderson to the house of Dr. R\*\*\*\*\*, about a mile distant, I saw one rise from a small enclosure not a hundred yards before me, where the doctor had a few days before slaughtered some hogs, and alight upon a low tree branching over the road. I prepared my double-barrelled piece, which I constantly carry, and went slowly and cautiously towards him ; quite fearless he awaited my approach, looking upon me with an undaunted eye. I fired, and he fell ; before I reached him he was dead. With what delight I surveyed this magnificent bird ! Had the finest salmon ever pleased him as he did me ?—Never. I ran and presented him to my friend, with a pride which those can only feel, who, like me, have devoted their earliest childhood to such pursuits, and have derived from them their first of pleasures ; to others, I must seem 'to prattle out of fashion.' The doctor, who was an experienced hunter, examined the bird with much satisfaction, and frankly acknowledged he had never before seen or heard

of it. The name I chose for this new species of Eagle, 'The Bird of Washington,' may, by some, be considered as preposterous and unfit; but, being indisputably the noblest of the genus known to naturalists, I trust it will be allowed to retain it. To those, however, who may be curious to know my reasons, I can only say, that, as the new world gave me birth and liberty, the great man who insured its independence is next to my heart; he had such true nobility of mind, and honest, generous feeling, as is seldom possessed; he was brave, so was the Eagle; and his name, extending from pole to pole, resembles the majestic soarings of the mightiest of the feathered tribe."

### THE GREAT SEA EAGLE.

THIS bird is usually above three feet in length, and the wings when expanded measure seven or eight feet. Its common hue is a blackish brown, deeper above than beneath, and relieved on the breast and under parts by numerous white spots. The larger feathers of its wings are nearly black, but those of the tail have a less deep tinge. It is found in the northern regions of both continents, even to the very margin of the polar ice, and in Asia as far to the south as the Caspian Sea. Fishing is the Sea Eagle's regular means of subsistence, but it will sometimes pick up dead fish on the beach and attack seals and land animals.

As this Eagle will eat carrion, it is used as a bait to catch him in Sutherlandshire. The wall part of a miniature house is built on ground frequented by the Eagle, and an opening left at the foot of the wall sufficient for the egress of the bird. To the outside of this opening a bit of strong cord is fixed, with a noose formed on one end, and the other end returning through the noose. After all this operation

is finished, a piece of carrion is thrown into the house, which the Eagle finds out and perches upon. It eats voraciously and when it is fully satiated, it never thinks of taking its



flight immediately upwards, unless disturbed, provided it can find an easier way to get out of the house; for it appears that it is not easy for it to begin its flight but in an oblique direction; consequently, it walks deliberately out at the opening left for it, and the noose catches hold of and fairly strangles it.

### THE WHITE-HEADED OR BALD EAGLE.

THIS bird is common to both continents, and is to be met with from a very high northern latitude to the borders o

the torrid zone, but chiefly in the vicinity of the sea, and along the shores and cliffs of our lakes and large rivers. The Cataract of Niagara is a noted place of resort for the Bald Eagle, as well on account of the fish procured there, as for the numerous carcasses of squirrels, deer, bears, and various other animals, that, in their attempts to cross the river above the Falls, have been dragged into the current, and furnish a rich repast to the birds of prey.



In procuring fish, which form his favourite food, this bird displays his daring and tyrannical disposition. Elevated on the high dead limb of some gigantic tree, commanding a view of the neighbouring shore and ocean, he watches calmly till he sees the fish hawk settling over some devoted victim of the deep. His eye kindles at the sight, and balancing himself with half opened wings on the branch, he waits for the result. "Down, rapid as an arrow from



heaven, descends the distant object of his attention, the roar of its wings reaching the ear as it disappears in the deep, making the surges foam around! At this moment, the eager looks of the Eagle are all ardour; and, levelling his neck for flight, he sees the fish hawk once more emerge, struggling with his prey, and mounting in the air with screams of exultation. These are the signals for our hero, who launching into the air, instantly gives chase, and soon gains on the fish hawk; each exerts his utmost to mount above the other, displaying in these rencontres the most elegant and sublime aerial evolutions. The unencumbered Eagle rapidly advances, and is just on the point of reaching his opponent, when with a sudden scream, probably of despair and honest execration, the latter drops his fish: the Eagle, poising himself for a moment, as if to take a more certain aim, descends like a whirlwind, snatches it in his grasp ere it reaches the water, and bears his ill-gotten booty silently away to the woods."

The following incident, which occurred a few years ago, near Great Egg Harbour, illustrates the great intrepidity of this bird. A woman, who was weeding in a garden, had set her child down near, to amuse itself while she was at work. A sudden and extraordinary rushing sound, and a scream from her child alarmed her, and starting up, she beheld the infant thrown down, and dragged some few feet, and a large Bald Eagle bearing off a fragment of its frock, which, being the only part seized and giving way, providentially saved the life of the infant.

The nest of this species is generally fixed on a very large and lofty tree, often in a swamp or morass, and difficult to be ascended. It is large and is repaired and extended every season, until it becomes a black prominent mass observable at some distance. It is formed of large



sticks, sods, earthy rubbish, hay and moss. As a proof of their attachment to their young, an anecdote is related of a person, who, in clearing a piece of wood on his place, near Norfolk, met with a large dead pine tree, on which were a Bald Eagle's nest and young. The tree being on fire more than half way up, and the flames rapidly ascending, the parent eagle darted around and among the flames, until her plumage was so much injured that it was with difficulty she could make her escape, and even then, she several times attempted to return to relieve her offspring.

The White-Headed Eagle is three feet long; the head, chief part of the neck, tail coverts, and tail are white; the rest of the plumage is deep dark brown, each feather tipped with pale brown. The legs, which are covered half way below the knee, before, with dark brown downy feathers, are of a rich yellow; the claws are blue black, very large and strong. The male is generally two or three inches shorter than the female, and its whole appearance is less formidable. The brown plumage is also lighter, and the bird itself less daring than the female, a circumstance common to almost all birds of prey.

### THE WEDGE TAILED EAGLE.

THIS bird is peculiar to the continent of New Holland. The general colour is a deep dusky brown, or dull black, with a rufous tinge on the head and back of the neck. The wing coverts are partially margined with white. The form, with the exception of a slenderer make, and the wedged shaped termination of the tail, is exactly that of the Golden Eagle of the European Alps. The wings extend considerably beyond the middle of the tail.

An individual of this species was captured by Captain Waterhouse, in an expedition to Broken Bay, and gave a

proof of its strength by forcing its talons through a man's foot, while lying in the bottom of a boat with its legs tied together. During ten days that it remained in captivity, it refused to be fed by any but one particular person. It was an object of wonder and fear among the natives, who could never be prevailed on to go near it. They asserted that



it would carry off a middling-sized Kangaroo. It was one morning found to have divided the strands of the rope by which it was fastened, and in this manner to have made its escape.

## THE CHILIAN SEA EAGLE.



THIS beautiful species measures about two feet in length from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail, and from four to five in the expanse of its wings. It is found, but not frequently, in Paraguay, and it is generally seen in pairs. The feathers of the head, neck and upper part of the body, are of a blackish blue, and with the exception of those of the back terminated by dirty white. The tail is blackish, with small whitish spots scattered over its surface; the upper wing coverts are ash-coloured, with blackish stems and transverse lines of the same. The whole under surface is beautifully white, with transverse blackish

lines on the under tail-coverts, and larger wing-coverts alone. The naked part of the leg is of a light yellow ; the beak black at its point, and blue at the base.

### THE BRAZILIAN CARACARA EAGLE.

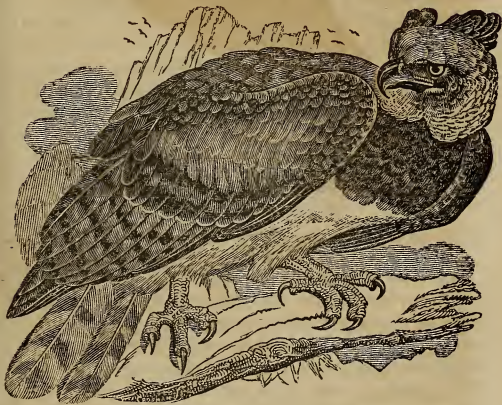


THIS bird, when full grown, measures twenty-one inches and a half in length, and fifty in the expanse of its wings. The neck is of a light brownish grey ; but the general colour of the plumage is a shade of blackish brown. It inhabits a considerable part of South America, and in Brazil and Paraguay is said to be the most common bird of prey. It builds its nest on the tops of trees, and sometimes in a bushy thicket, where it forms a spacious aiery of sticks and twining branches, lined with a thick layer of

hair. In August, September or October, the female lays two eggs much pointed at one extremity, and spotted with crimson on a ground of brownish red.

These birds are by no means nice in their food. Any kind of bird, carrion or reptile is equally acceptable. Not content with the prey which they have themselves procured, they often feast upon that which has been taken by others. Thus if a Caracara sees a Vulture devouring a piece of flesh, it will pursue him and compel him to disgorge it; and not unfrequently it will carry off the game before the eyes of the sportsmen. It has no fear about approaching the habitations of men, as it is never troubled by them.

## HARPY EAGLE



THIS noble bird is distinguished from other Eagles by the shortness of its wings, the extreme robustness of its

legs, and the more than ordinary curvature of its beak and talons. Its upper mandible is remarkably thick at the base, suddenly curving downwards with a strong arch toward the point, which is extremely sharp; the lower mandible is straight, short and obtuse; the wings do not reach when closed beyond the middle of the tail; the legs are only partially feathered, and the talons are excessively powerful.

The Harpy is very quarrelsome, sullen and fierce, and preys not merely upon birds, but upon hares and other similar animals. It is said to be capable of splitting a man's skull with a single blow of its beak. It lives in perfect solitude, in the depth and darkness of the thickest forests.

In captivity there is little to distinguish its manners from those of the other birds of its tribe. An individual taken from the nest in possession of the elder Jacquin became so tame as to suffer its head to be handled and scratched; but unfortunately this specimen was found dead on its passage to Europe, having fallen a victim as was supposed, to the vengeance of the sailors, whose monkeys it had destroyed. These animals in their gambols unconsciously approached too near its cage and were seized by its powerful talons; it first skinned and then devoured them with almost all their bones.

### THE BEARDED GRIFFIN OR LAMMERGEYER.

THE range of this bird extends to most of the principal mountain-chains of the Old Continent, where it occupies the loftiest and most inaccessible cliffs, and frequently commits dreadful ravages in the neighbouring plains. It is the largest of European birds of prey, measuring when fully grown, upwards of four feet from beak to tail, and in the expanse of its wings no less than nine or ten. The general colour of the upper parts is a dull brown with a

mixture of grey ; its wings and tail are of a greyish ash colour ; the neck, breast and under parts are white, with a shade of reddish brown or orange. The beak is of an ashy grey with a flesh coloured tinge.

In its habits, this bird combines the audacity and cruelty of the Eagles with the appetite for carrion which distinguishes the vultures. It seizes by preference on living victims, such as rabbits, hares, sheep and lambs, or even



young goats and calves. Sometimes when rendered desperate by a long fast, it is said to attack the Chamois, or even man himself, choosing for the scene of its exploits the brink of a precipice, and descending upon its victim with such an irresistible impetus as to precipitate him headlong into the abyss below. It is from its character as spoiler of the fold, that this bird has received from the natives of the German Alps the title of Lammergeyer, the Lamb Vulture.



Bruce relates in his *Abyssinian Travels*, a remarkable circumstance illustrative at once of its boldness and voracity. His servants were preparing for dinner on the summit of a lofty mountain, when a Bearded Vulture, attracted by the smell of the goat's flesh, which they were cooking, slowly made his advances towards the party, and at length fairly seated himself within the ring which they had formed. The affrighted natives started up and ran for their lances and shields; and the bird, after an ineffectual attempt to extract a portion of their meat from the boiling water, seized a large piece in each of his talons from a platter that stood by, and carried them off slowly along the ground as he came. After an interval of a few minutes, the Vulture returned for a second freight, but was shot by the traveller before it could carry its purpose into effect. The manner of its flight in this instance, as well as in many others, may be taken as an indication that this species does not usually make its prey of birds, which it is rarely if ever known to attack.

### THE CONDOR.

THE Condor forms the type of a genus, a second species of which is the King of the Vultures. They are both peculiar to the New World, but approach in their most essential characters very closely to the vultures of the Old Continent. In size, the Condor is little superior to the Lammergeyer of the Alps; its beak is straight at the base, but the upper mandible becomes arched towards the point, and terminates in a strong and well curved hook. The head and neck are bare of feathers, and covered with a hard, wrinkled, dusky reddish skin, on which are scattered some short brown or blackish hairs. On the top of the head is an oblong, firm carbuncle or comb, covered by a con-



tinuation of the skin which invests the head. This organ is peculiar to the male. Behind the eyes, the skin of the neck is gathered into a series of descending folds, extending over the temples to the under side of the neck, and there connected with a lax membrane or wattle, capable of



being dilated at pleasure, like that of the common turkey. The neck is marked by numerous deep parallel folds, pro-

duced by the habit of retracting the head, in which the bird indulges when at rest.

Round the lower part of the neck, both sexes are furnished with a broad white ruff of downy feathers. The general colour of the plumage is a bright black, mingled with a greyish tinge of greater or less intensity. The tail is short and wedge-shaped. The legs are very thick and powerful, of a bluish grey, intermingled with whitish streaks. Their toes are united at the base by a loose membrane, and are terminated by long black talons of considerable thickness, very little curved.

The Condor has been observed throughout the whole of that immense range of mountains that traverses South America, and is sometimes met with as far north as the Rocky Mountains, within the United States. It is more common however in Peru and Chili than in any other part of the chain, and is most frequently met with at an elevation of from ten to fifteen thousand feet above the level of the ocean. Groups of three or four may here be seen in the regions of perpetual snow, on the points of some high rocks, from whence they will sometimes be driven by hunger to the plains. It is said that the female bird builds no nest, but deposits its eggs upon the bare rock; these eggs are perfectly white, and three or four inches in length.

The habits of the Condor partake of the ferocity of the eagle, and the disgusting filthiness of the vulture. Although it appears to prefer the dead carcass, it frequently attacks the living prey: but the gripe of its talons is not sufficiently firm to enable it to carry off its victim through the air. Two of these birds will sometimes unite and attack a llama, a calf, or even a full grown cow. They will pursue the poor animal with unwearied pertinacity, lacerating it with their beaks and talons, until it falls exhausted with fatigue

and loss of blood. Then, tearing out the tongue and eyes, they commence their feast with these favourite morsels, and continue till they have gorged themselves so fully as to be incapable of using their wings in flight.

The Indians are in the habit of turning this voracity to account, for their amusement in the chase. For this purpose, they expose the dead body of a horse or a cow, by which some of the Condors, which are generally hovering in the air in search of food, are speedily attracted. As soon as the birds have glutted themselves on the carcass, the Indians make their appearance, armed with the lasso, and the Condors, being unable to escape by flight, are pursued and caught by means of these singular weapons with the greatest certainty. This sport is a peculiar favourite, and esteemed second only to that of a bull-fight.

In tenacity of life, the Condor exceeds almost every other bird. When first taken captive, it is sulky and timid; but the latter feeling soon wears off, and it becomes savage and dangerous. After a time, however, it seems to be reconciled to confinement, and bears it tolerably well.

### GRIFFON VULTURE.

THIS noble species of Vulture, which is one of the largest birds of prey of the Old Continent, is found on the lofty mountain chains of Europe, Asia and Africa. It is not uncommon during the summer in the Alps and Pyrenees, but it is said to retreat in winter to the North of Africa.

This bird forms its nest in the clefts of rocks. It lays from two to four eggs, which are of a greyish white, with numerous spots of a very light and dilated red. Like all other birds of its tribe, it feeds principally upon dead carcasses; and when it has once fixed upon its prey, it rarely quits the banquet while a morsel of flesh remains. Sometimes it will attack such living victims as are incapable of

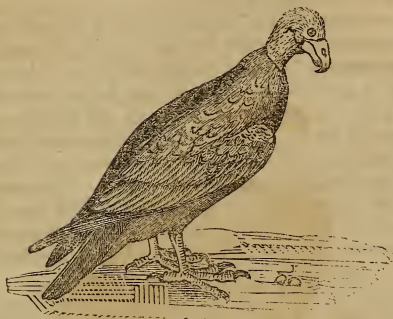
making any resistance ; but only when urged by hunger, and incapable of satiating its appetite in any other manner. After feeding, it remains fixed for hours in one unvaried posture, patiently waiting till the stimulus of hunger is re-



newed to enable it to mount again into the upper regions of the air, and fly about in quest of its necessary supplies.

In captivity, it appears to have no other desire than that of obtaining its regular food. So long as that is provided, it manifests a perfect indifference to the circumstances in which it is placed.

## TURKEY BUZZARD.



THIS bird is about the size of a turkey. The head and neck are bare of feathers and of a reddish colour, and the sides of the head are warted. The whole plumage is of a brownish black, with a purple and greenish gloss. This species is well known throughout the United States, but is most numerous in the southern section. They are found in some parts in vast flocks, and are of great utility in destroying snakes and vermin, and in devouring dead and putrid carcasses. The female lays from two to four eggs in an old hollow tree or stump.

The Turkey Buzzards are peaceable and harmless. They generally roost in flocks on the limbs of large trees, and may be seen on a summer's morning, spreading out their wings to the rising sun, and remaining in that posture for a considerable time. When engaged with a carcass, they will often eat so immoderately as to be incapable of rising. They may then be caught without difficulty

though few that are acquainted with them would have the temerity to undertake the task.

A man in the state of Delaware some years since, observing a party of Turkey Buzzards regaling themselves on the carcass of a horse, thought that it would be very pretty to catch one, and carry it home for his children to play with. He approached cautiously, and springing unexpectedly upon the group, grasped a fine plump fellow in his arms, and was bearing him off in triumph. His joy however was interrupted very unceremoniously. The enraged prisoner disgorged such a torrent of filth in his face, that it produced all the effects of the most powerful emetic, and forever cured him of his partiality for Turkey Buzzards.

### THE BLACK VULTURE.



THIS bird has sometimes been confounded with the preceding; but it is much darker in its plumage, and they never associate together. The Black Vultures are very

indolent and may be seen loitering for hours in one place. It is said that they sometimes attack young pigs and eat off their ears and tails ; but these instances are rare.

In the towns and villages of the Southern States, the Carrion Crows may be seen sauntering about the streets, sunning themselves on the roofs of the houses and fences ; or, if the weather be cold, cowering around the tops of the chimney to enjoy the benefit of the heat. They are seldom molested, and are as familiar as the common poultry.

This bird is seldom found on the Atlantic, to the northward of North Carolina, but inhabits the whole continent to the southward as far as Cape Horn.

### KING OF THE VULTURES.

THIS is one of the handsomest, although among the smaller species of the Vulture family. When fully grown it measures about two feet and a half in total length, and more than twice as much in the expanse of its wings. The hues of its plumage are bright, sharply circumscribed, and strongly contrasting with each other. Round the base of the neck passes a broad ruff of soft downy feathers of a deep ashy grey ; the whole under surface is white, with an occasional tinge of flesh colour ; the back and tail coverts, are of a bright fawn, which becomes lighter and lighter as the bird advances in age ; and the quill feathers of the wings and tail, together with the larger coverts of the former, are glossy black.

The sight of these birds is wide and piercing, their sense of smell highly developed, and their strength of wing sufficient to carry them to a great height, and to continue their flight for hours together. They endure the pangs of hunger with extraordinary patience ; and never attack the smallest bird, or the most feeble quadruped while it has



life. In walking, their gait is slow and heavy, and their body is maintained in a horizontal position. When about to mount into the air, they are compelled to take several leaps before they can accomplish the purpose, and quit the ground



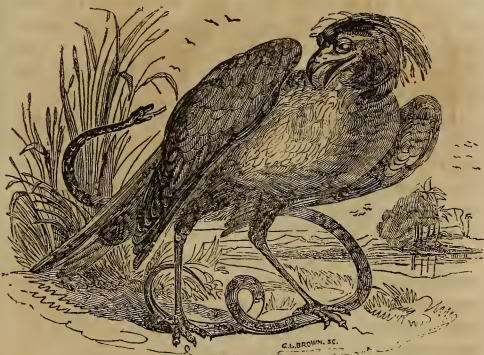
with some little difficulty. The odour of their flesh is precisely the same with that of the carrion on which they feed, and even the skins retain it for many years. Contrary to the habits of their family in general, they perch on the tallest trees, living solitary or in pairs, building their nests, as it is said, in the hollows of the trunks and laying only two eggs. They are little inclined to become familiar with man, but on the contrary avoid his habitations and betake themselves every where to the interior and unfrequented parts of the country. In a deficiency of carrion, they feed upon snakes



and lizards, and during the summer subsist in a great measure upon the putrid fish of the lakes that are dried up by the parching heat of the sun.

The range of this fine species of Vulture is rather extensive. It is enumerated by M. Bonaparte among the birds of the United States, and it is occasionally met with in Florida, which is probably its northern limit. Towards the south, it is common in Paraguay, but it does not pass the thirty second degree of latitude.

### THE SECRETARY VULTURE.



THIS is the most elegant bird of the genus. It resembles the common falcon in its head, bills and claws; but its legs are so long, that, when erect, it is not much unlike the crane, measuring about three feet from the top of the

head to the ground. It is a native of the interior of Africa, Asia, and the Philippine Islands. The general colour of the plumage is a bluish ash; the tips of the wings and the thighs are inclining to black. On the back of the head are several long dark-coloured feathers, hanging down behind, capable of being erected at pleasure. The crest induced the Dutch colonists at the Cape to give it the name of the Secretary; the Hottentots however style it the Serpent-eater, from the avidity with which it catches and devours these noxious reptiles. The manner in which it seizes them displays great intelligence. On approaching them, it carries forward the point of one of its wings, in order to parry their venomous bites, and waits till it finds an opportunity of spurning or treading on its adversary, or taking him on its pinions, and throwing him into the air. When it has at last thus wearied him out, it kills and devours him at its leisure.

In one of these combats, the serpent, finding himself inferior in strength, endeavoured to regain his hole; but the falcon, by a single leap, got before him and cut off his retreat. On whichever side the reptile strove to retreat, the enemy still faced him. The serpent then erected himself to intimidate the bird, and hissing dreadfully, displayed his menancing throat, inflamed eyes, and a head swollen with rage and venom. Sometimes this produced a momentary suspension of hostilities; but the bird soon returned to the charge, and, covering her body with one of her wings as a buckler, struck her enemy with the bony protuberance of the other. The serpent at last dropped, and the bird laid open his skull with one stroke of her beak.

This singular bird may be easily tamed, and it becomes very domestic and familiar. Though, if severely pinched

with hunger, it will devour ducklings and chickens, yet, if well fed, it will live with the poultry on amicable terms, and when it sees any of them quarrelling, will run to part the combatants. Unlike all the rest of the feathered race, these birds always strike forward with their legs when they fight.

## THE SOCIABLE VULTURE.



THIS gigantic bird is in size fully equal to the Condor. The head and greater part of the neck are of the colour of raw flesh, and exhibit in their adult state no appear-

ance of down or feathers, but only a few scarcely perceptible scattered hairs. The throat is covered with blackish hairs, and the lower part of the neck behind with a kind of ruff of crisped and curling feathers of the same colour.

Like all the other Vultures, this bird inhabits the sheltered retreats formed by the caves and fissures of the mountains. In them it passes the night, and reposes, after sating its appetite, during the day. At sun-rise large bands are seen perched on the rocks at the entrance of their abodes, and sometimes a continued chain of mountains exhibits them dispersed throughout the greater part of its extent. Their tails are always worn down by friction against the stones, between which they thrust themselves, or on which they perch; and are moreover injured by the soil of the plains, as they cannot raise themselves into the air at once, but only after running several paces forwards and by a forced contraction of their limbs. Their flight however is very powerful and lofty.

The Sociable Vulture is a bird of extreme rarity. It is found in the interior of Africa.

## THE FALCON.

FALCONRY, which is now gone out of fashion, formed at one time the principal amusement of the European gentry. A person of rank seldom stirred out without his Hawk on his hand. The expense which attended this sport was very great; among the old Welsh princes, the king's falconer was the fourth officer in the state; but, notwithstanding all his honours, he was forbidden to take more than three draughts of beer from his horn, lest he should get drunk and neglect his duty. In the reign of James the First, Sir Thomas Monson is said to have given a thousand pounds for a cast of Hawks, and such was their

value in general, that it was made felony in the reign of Edward the Third to steal a Hawk. To take its eggs, even in a person's own ground, was punishable with imprisonment for a year and a day, together with a fine at the king's pleasure.

The Falcon is a native of the cold climates of the north, but it is never seen in warm, and seldom in temperate climates. Next to the eagle it is the most formidable, active, and intrepid of all voracious birds. It boldly attacks the largest of the feathered race; the stork, the heron and the crane are easy victims. Hares it kills by darting directly upon them. The general colour of the plumage is white, spotted with brown.

### THE PEREGRINE FALCON.



In different stages of its growth, this bird has been known by various English names. Its proper appellation among the Falconers is the Slight Falcon. In the imma-

ture state it is called a Red Hawk, from the prevailing colour of its plumage. When full grown and in a wild state it is called a Haggard or Passage Falcon. The male is called a Tiercel or Tercel, to distinguish it from the female, which among birds of prey is most commonly one third larger than the male.

The Peregrine Falcon is marked on the upper parts of the body with bars of blue and yellow; the breast is of a yellowish white, with a few dusky lines; and the lower parts are of a greyish white crossed with dusky bands.

### THE GOSHAWK.

THIS bird is slender and beautiful, and is about one foot ten inches in length. Its bill is blue, tipped with black; over each eye there is a whitish line; the head and all the upper parts of the body are of a deep brown colour, the lower parts are white, with a number of wavy lines or bars of black. The tail is long, of an ash colour, and crossed with four or five dusky bars; the legs are yellow and the claws black; the wings are much shorter than the tail. It feeds on mice and small birds and eagerly devours raw flesh.

The Goshawk is found in the northern parts of Europe. There is in Chinese Tartary a variety which is mottled with brown and yellow, and is used for sporting by the nobility.

### SPARROW HAWK.

THIS bird is somewhat larger than a common pigeon, the male being about twelve inches in length and the female fifteen. It has a short hooked blue bill, with slender reddish legs and rather a long tail. The colour of the eye is a bright orange. The plumage on the wings and up-

per parts of the body is brown, spotted with yellowish dun ; the lower parts in some are whitish, in others of a russet colour.

The Sparrow Hawk is found in great numbers in various parts of the world, from Russia to the Cape of Good Hope. The female builds in high rocks, lofty ruins, or hollow trees, but will sometimes take up with the old nest of a crow. She lays four or five eggs, marked with reddish spots.

The Sparrow Hawk is more easily trained than most of the rapacious tribes and when domesticated is capable of great attachment to its owner. In its wild state, it commits enormous havoc among the smaller race of birds, and is an object of particular dislike to the farmer, whose poultry yard it will visit with the greatest audacity.

### FISH HAWK.



THIS vigorous and well known bird subsists entirely on the fish that swarm in our bays and rivers ; and is no



farther dependent on the land than as a mere resting place, or spot of deposit for his nest, eggs and young. He never attacks the inferior land animals, with the intention of feeding upon them; but will sometimes, when he arrives in the north before the breaking up of the ice, make war upon the bald eagles.

The nest of the Fish-Hawk is usually built on the top of a dead or decaying tree, sometimes upwards of fifty feet from the ground. It is composed of large sticks, intermixed with corn stalks, sea-weed, pieces of wet turf, and mullein stalks, and lined with dry sea-grass; the whole forming a mass very observable at half a mile's distance. The female generally lays three eggs, somewhat larger than those of the common hen, and nearly of the same shape. They are of a reddish cream colour, daubed over with dark brown. During the time the female is sitting, the male frequently supplies her with fish; and on the appearance of the young, the zeal and watchfulness of the parents are extreme.

The flight of the Fish-Hawk, and his manœuvres in seeking and seizing his prey, are deserving of particular description. In leaving his nest, he flies directly to the sea, then sails round in easy curving lines, apparently without the least exertion, rarely moving the wings, his legs extended in a straight line behind. The height, at which he thus elegantly glides, varies from one to two hundred feet, sometimes much higher, all the while calmly reconnoitering the face of the deep below. Suddenly his attention is struck by a particular object, which he seems to survey for a few moments with such steadiness, that he appears fixed in the air, flapping his wings. But the fish he had in his eye has disappeared, and he is again seen sailing round as before. His attention is again arrested, and he descends with great rapidity; but ere he



reaches the surface, shoots off on another course, as if ashamed that a second victim had escaped him. He now sails at a short height above the surface, and by a zig-zag descent, without seeming to dip his feet in the water, seizes a fish, which he soon drops, or yields up to the bald eagle, and again ascends by easy spiral circles to the higher regions of the air.

At once from this sublime height, he descends like a torrent, plunging into the sea with a loud rushing sound, and with the certainty of a rifle. In a few moments he emerges, bearing in his claws his struggling prey. Having risen a few feet above the surface, he shakes himself as a water spaniel would do, and directs his heavy and laborious course to land. A shad was once taken from a Fish-Hawk near Great Egg harbour, on which he had begun to regale himself, and the remainder of which weighed six pounds. Another Hawk at the same place was seen with a flounder in his grasp, which struggled and shook him so that he dropped it on shore. The flounder was picked up, and served a whole family for dinner. It is singular that the Hawk never descends to pick up a fish which he happens to drop either on the land or on the water.

This bird is twenty-two inches in length; the crown and hind head are pure white, front streaked with brown; the whole upper parts are of deep brown; the tail is slightly rounded, of a paler brown than the body, and crossed with light bars of very dark brown; the whole lower parts are pure white. The legs are short, feathered a little below the knee, and, as well as the feet and claws, very large; the latter hooked into semicircles, black and very sharp-pointed. The female is full two inches longer, and differs somewhat in the colours of her plumage.

## THE LITTLE FALCON.



THIS bird is a constant resident in almost every part of the United States. Her head is of a bluish ash colour, with a rufous patch on its upper parts. All the upper parts are of a deep reddish brown, transversely striped with narrow black bars; the quill feathers are blackish brown, spotted on the inner webs with rusty white. The under parts are yellowish white.

The Little Falcon builds its nest pretty high up in a hollow tree, where a large limb has been broken off. It lays from two to four or five eggs, and the young when hatched are fed with small birds, grasshoppers, and mice, the usual food of the parent bird. It flies rather irregularly. Frequently it perches on the top of a dead tree or pole, in the middle of a field, and sits there in an almost perpendicular position for an hour at a time, jerking its tail,

and reconnoitering the ground below for the little animals on which it feeds.

The blue jays have a particular antipathy to this bird : and in return the Hawk contents himself with now and then feasting on the plumpest of his persecutors.

### THE SWALLOW-TAILED HAWK.



THIS very elegant species inhabits the southern districts of the United States during the summer. They feed on locusts, and on a species of lizard which is very numerous in that part of the country ; they are said also to devour small green snakes. The flight of this bird is easy and graceful, with sometimes occasional sweeps among the trees.

### SHRIKES.

OF these birds there are above forty different kinds, among the most conspicuous of which are the Wood-Chat, the Malabar Shrike, and the Great American Shrike.

## GREAT AMERICAN SHRIKE, OR BUTCHER BIRD.



THE form and countenance of this bird bespeak him full of courage and energy, and his character is in harmony with his appearance. He frequents the deepest forests, and builds a large compact nest of dry grass and moss, in the upright fork of a small tree. His manners somewhat resemble those of the pie, particularly in the habit of carrying off his surplus food as if to hoard it for future exigencies. This food he sticks on thorns and bushes, where it shrivels in the sun and soon becomes useless to the hoarder. In confinement he sticks up not only insects, but flesh, and the bodies of such birds as are thrown to him, on nails and bits of wood fixed for the purpose.

The activity of the Butcher Bird is visible in all his motions; and in affection for his young he is surpassed by none of the feathered tribe. He associates with them, the whole family hunting in company. He attacks the largest Hawk or Eagle in their defence, with astonishing resolution. As the snows of winter approach, he descends

from the mountainous forests and regions of the north, to the more cultivated parts of the country, hovering about hedge-rows, orchards and meadows, and disappearing early in April.

## OWLS.

ALL birds of the Owl kind have one common mark, by which they are distinguished from others ; their eyes, like those of tigers and cats are formed for seeing better in the dusk, than in the broad glare of sunshine. But though dazzled by too bright a daylight, they do not see best in the darkest nights, but on those when the moon shines. They all agree in their general characteristic of preying by night, however they may differ in their size and plumage ; their bodies are strong and muscular, their feet and claws made for tearing their prey, and their stomachs for digesting it. They are the most useful to man of all the birds of prey, by their wholesale destruction of the mice, and other petty but dangerous enemies that pillage cornfields and granaries.

## THE WHITE, OR SCREECH OWL.

THIS bird is common in England, where it frequents churches, old houses and uninhabited buildings. It derives its name from its singular cry. The plumage of this species has much elegance ; the upper parts of the body being of a fine pale yellow, mottled with white spots, while the under parts are entirely white, and a circle of soft white feathers surrounds each of the eyes. The legs are feathered to the claws. The sense of hearing in the Screech Owl is very acute. Since the time of Genghis Khan, the Mongol and Kalmuc Tartars have held the White Owl sacred, in consequence of one of the species

having settled on a bush, under which the prince hid himself from his enemies after a defeat. The pursuers passed the bush, but did not examine it, as they imagined that a bird would not have perched where a man was concealed.

### GREAT-EARED, OR EAGLE OWL.



THIS bird at first view appears as large as an Eagle, though on closer observation it will be found much less. Its eyes are large and transparent, encircled with an orange coloured iris; its ears are large and deep; its plumage is of reddish brown, marked on the back with black and yellow spots. To its offspring it is very affectionate, and if they are taken from the nest and confined, it will assiduously supply them with food. This, however, it ac-

complies with such secrecy and sagacity, that it is very seldom detected in the act.

## AMERICAN GREAT HORNED OWL.



THIS bird is found in almost every quarter of the United States. His favourite residence, however, is in the dark solitude of deep swamps, covered with a growth of gigantic timber. One of his favourite exclamations, is a sudden and very clamorous *Waugh O! Waugh O!*; and another bears a striking resemblance to the half suppressed screams of a person suffocated or throttled. Both of these entertaining sounds are very frequently heard by the lonely traveller, along the mountainous shores of the Ohio, or amidst the deep forests of Indiana. The nest of this bird is placed in the fork of a tall tree, and is con-



structed of sticks piled in large quantities, and lined with dry leaves and a few feathers. The female lays four white eggs, nearly as large as those of a hen.

This species inhabits the country round Hudson's Bay, and in the arctic regions it is sometimes found white. It has also been seen white in the United States, but this colour has here been doubtless owing to disease. It preys on young rabbits, squirrels, rats, mice, partridges and small birds of various kinds.

### SNOWY OWL.



THIS bird is a native of the most northern regions of both continents. The comparative length of wing and strength of its quill feathers enable it to fly with much more swiftness, and to remain suspended in the air for a



much greater length of time than any other bird of the family. It flies abroad in the day time as well as the twilight, and feeds almost indiscriminately on birds, quadrupeds, fishes and even carrion. It is also said to be extremely troublesome to the hunter, whom it will follow for the whole day, perching itself on the highest tree, and skimming down when a bird has been shot, with such rapidity as to carry off the prize, before the sportsman can get within reach of it.

Wilson describes this bird as being particularly fond of frequenting the shores and banks of shallow rivers, sailing slowly over the surface, or sitting on a rock a little raised above the water, watching for fish, which it seizes with a sudden and instantaneous stroke of the foot, seldom missing its aim. It is capable of swallowing entire animals of considerable size, such as grouse, partridges, young hares and rabbits. These birds never migrate in search of more temperate climates, but brave the coldest winters even in the most unsheltered and barren grounds. In such situations, they perch on high rocks and stones, watching for their prey, their snowy plumage rendering them almost undistinguishable. Their dismal voices add horror even to a Greenland winter.

### WATER FOWL.

NATURALISTS divide Water Fowl into three orders; those with cloven feet, or the crane kind; those with pin-nated, or finned feet; and those with webbed feet, or the swan or duck kind. The web-footed fowl are generally of a squat make, and of a waddling gait, with their legs placed far behind, and extremely long necks. The cloven-footed Water Fowl on the contrary are tall, light and in general of pleasing proportions. Those with finned

feet partake of the nature of both. The cloven-footed lay their eggs on the ground, and make no nest. Those with pinnated feet form large nests in the water or near it; and the web-footed fowl deposit their eggs for the most part on the lofty cliffs, or inaccessible promontories.

### THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL.



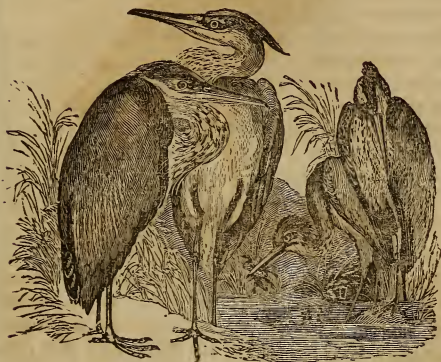
THIS bird has a beautiful red plumage, with a mixture of black at the lower part of the neck. It inhabits the sea-shores of America from Brazil to Georgia, and in summer occasionally wanders up the Mississippi. It is com-

mon in several of the West India islands, but confines itself chiefly to the sea-shore and the mouths of rivers. It wades about in quest of shell-fish, marine insects, small crabs and fish. The young of this bird are said to be of a blackish chestnut the first year, of a roseate colour the second year, and of a deep scarlet the third.

### THE HERON.

OF this genus there are about eighty-two species, differing in their size, figure and plumage. They are all however possessed of the same manners, and are all cowardly, rapacious and indolent. They are exceedingly voracious, but are always found with very lean and carrion bodies.

### THE COMMON HERON.



THIS bird is remarkably light in proportion to its bulk, scarcely weighing three pounds and a half, yet expanding

a breadth of wing which is five feet from tip to tip. Its bill is very long; its claws are bony, sharp, and the middlemost toothed like a saw. Yet, thus armed as it appears for war, it is indolent and cowardly, and flies even at the approach of a sparrow-hawk. When driven to extremity, however, it shakes off its timidity and displays both courage and skill.

This bird commits very great devastation in fresh water, and there is scarcely a fish, however large, that he will not strike at and wound, though unable to carry it away. He chiefly subsists however upon the small fry, that are driven by their more powerful fellows to take refuge in shallow waters. His method is to wade as far as he can go into the water, and there patiently wait the approach of his prey; which, when it comes within sight, he darts upon with an inevitable aim. In this manner he is found to destroy more in a week, than an otter in three months.

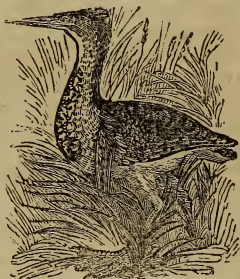
The nest of this bird is built on the top of the highest trees, and sometimes on cliffs hanging over the sea. They are never in flocks when they fish, but in making their nests they love each other's society. Their nests are made of sticks and lined with wool; and the female lays four large eggs of a pale colour. They will never build a nest where they can get one made by the rook, or deserted by the owl, already provided for them. The Heron is said to be a very long-lived bird.

### THE BITTERN.

THIS bird is not so large as the Heron, with a weaker bill, not above four inches long. Its colour is in general of a palish yellow, spotted and barred with black. Its wind-pipe is fitted to produce a dismally hollow booming, for which this bird is very remarkable. It resembles the

interrupted bellowing of a bull, but is hollower and louder, and is heard at a mile's distance, as if issuing from some formidable being that resided at the bottom of the waters.

Though of the heron kind, this bird is neither so destructive nor voracious. It is retired and timorous, concealing itself in the midst of reeds and marshy places, and living upon frogs, insects and vegetables. It lays its eggs



in a sedgy margin, or amidst a tuft of rushes, and composes its simple habitation of sedges, the leaves of water plants, and dry rushes. It lays seven or eight eggs of an ash green colour, and defends its young with such courage that even the hawk does not venture to attack its nest.

The flesh of the Bittern is considered a great luxury. When wounded by the sportsman it often makes a severe resistance. It does not retire, but waits the onset, and gives such vigorous pushes with its bill, as to wound the leg through the boot. Sometimes it turns on its back, and fights with both its bill and claws. When surprised by a dog, it is said always to throw itself into this posture and defend itself so vigorously, as to compel its assail-

ant to retire. The eyes of its antagonist are the object at which it chiefly strikes.

### THE TIGER BITTERN.



THIS bird is a native of Guiana, where it dwells in the solitary savannahs, frequenting the banks of rivers, and feeding upon frogs and other reptiles. It builds its nest upon the ground, and lays seven or eight roundish eggs. It measures about two feet and a half in length. The plumage of the upper surface exhibits different shades of brown, transversely barred with black; on the under surface the ground is much paler, becoming almost white on the throat and abdomen. The bill is of a dull greenish horn colour, and the legs are ashy grey.

## THE CRANE.



THIS is a tall, slender bird, with a long neck and long legs. The top of the head is covered with black bristles and the back of it is bald and red. The plumage in general is ash-coloured, and there are two large tufts of feathers springing from the pinion of each wing. These feathers used at one time to be set in gold, and worn as ornaments in caps.

These birds usually fly or sit in flocks of fifty or sixty together; and while a part feed, the rest stand like sentinels upon duty. They subsist for the most part upon vegetables, and are known in every country of Europe except England. They are birds of passage, and, in the inland parts of the continent, are seen crossing the coun-



try in flocks of fifty or a hundred. In these migrations they will occasionally stop to regale themselves upon a field of corn.

In these journeys it is astonishing to conceive the heights to which they ascend. Their note is the loudest of all birds, and is often heard in the clouds, when the bird itself is entirely unseen. But though unseen themselves, they have the most distinct vision of every object below. They govern and direct their flight by their cries, and exhort each other to proceed or descend, when a fit opportunity offers for depredation.

In general, the Crane is a peaceful bird, both in its own society and with respect to those of the forest. It is an animal easily tamed, and is said to have a particular affection for man. It is common in America.

### THE STORK.



THE most remarkable of this species is the White Stork, the length of which is about three feet. The bill is nearly eight inches long and of a fine red colour. The plumage is almost wholly white. This bird is semi-domestic, haunting towns and cities, and in many places stalking unconcernedly about the streets in search of food. It re-



moves the noxious filth and clears the fields of serpents and reptiles. On this account it has been held in high respect and favour among several nations. The ancients, indeed, ascribed to it the virtues of temperance, conjugal fidelity, and filial and paternal piety.

The disposition of this bird is mild, though it has a grave air and a mournful visage. It will sometimes join in the frolics of children. One writer tells us that he saw a tame Stork in a garden, where the children were playing at hide and seek, and that it ran its turn when touched, and so well distinguished the child whose turn it was to pursue the rest, as to be perfectly on its guard. It appears to be sensible of injuries and to have an inclination to revenge them. A wild Stork, having been beaten by a tame one, has been known, after an interval of four months, to come back with three other Storks, and kill the former victor.

Storks are birds of passage, and observe great exactness in the time of their autumnal departure from Europe to more favourite climates. Their migration is performed in immense companies. In the northern countries of Europe there are Storks whose plumage is black.

### THE MARABOU STORK.

THIS bird inhabits nearly the whole of tropical Africa. In its manners, it bears a close resemblance to the White Stork of Europe, but becomes even more familiar, and in consequence of its larger size renders more essential service in the removal of carrion, offal and other nuisances.

Dr. Latham gives an amusing account of an individual of this species, which had been brought up in a state of domestication in Africa. It always took its place at dinner time, in the great hall, behind its master's chair, where

it remained in expectation of its usual share in the meal. The servants had some difficulty in protecting the dishes from its attacks previously to the arrival of the guests: they carried switches for the purpose, but it would frequently watch its opportunity and snatch some favourite

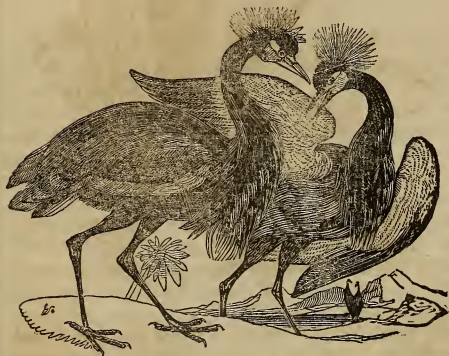


morsel before they were aware of it. In this way it had been known to swallow an entire boiled fowl at a single mouthful. It was permitted to fly at large about the

island, and roosted very high among the silk-cotton-trees, from the tops of which, even at the distance of two or three miles, it would espy the servants carrying the dishes across the yard, and dash down among them as they entered the hall.

The attitudes of these birds are curious, and frequently not a little ludicrous. At rest they either stand upon one leg, with the neck withdrawn, and the bill brought forward towards the breast, or sit upon the ground, with one or both legs directed straight before them. But when excited, they elongate their necks and stand at their full height, menacing with their large bills, which are too light to inflict any serious injury, even had the birds courage enough to attempt it.

### THE CROWNED CRANE.



THIS bird comes from the coast of Africa, and the Cape de Verd Islands. It is remarkable for the lightness and

elegance of its proportions, and the gracefulness and variety of its attitudes. Its forehead is covered by a thick tuft of short velvety feathers of a soft and brilliant black. The feathers upon its neck and body are black, with a slight tinge of lead colour. The naked cheeks and temples are of a delicate rose colour; and the yellow filaments of its crest terminate in blackish pencils. It grows to the height of four feet. As it runs, it stretches out its wings and goes very swiftly, otherwise its usual motion is very slow. In their domestic state, they walk very deliberately among other poultry and suffer themselves to be approached by every spectator. At night they perch upon some high wall. From their manners and disposition, some have described these birds by the name of the Sea Peacock.

### THE NUMIDIAN CRANE.

THIS bird is remarkable for the graceful symmetry of its form, the tasteful disposition of its plumage, and the agreeable contrast of its lighter and darker shades of colour. From the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, it measures about three feet. The general colour of the plumage is a slaty grey. Behind each eye there passes off in a backward direction a tuft of pure white feathers, extremely light and flexible, and three or four inches in length. The bill is yellowish or flesh coloured; the legs and claws are approaching to black.

The gracefulness of its figure and the elegance of its deportment have always rendered this bird an object of peculiar attraction. Its manners are gentle and good natured, and it speedily becomes familiarized and contented with captivity. It is a native of Africa, and is most

abundant in the neighbourhood of Tripoli. The environs



of Constantinople are the only part of Europe which it is said to visit.

### THE JABIRU.

THE South American Jabiru is more than four feet high, and is six in length from the tip of the beak to that of the claws. It has a large black bill above thirteen inches long, and three in thickness at the base. The head and most of the neck of this bird are covered with a black and naked skin, thinly scattered with a few grey hairs. The general colour of the plumage is white, but about the lower part of the neck is a large band of beautiful red. In

the rainy season the Jabiru grows fat, and the natives consider it at that time excellent eating. These birds live



in flocks, building their nests in trees hanging over the water, and laying two eggs. They feed chiefly on fish.

#### ADJUTANT.

THIS singular bird is of the heron tribe. It is common in India, and is seen on the houses and in the streets of Calcutta, as familiarly as domestic fowls. Its head looks

as if it were made of wood, being unprotected by hair, feather or down; and this oddity is heightened by the peculiarity of the eye, which seems to be set in it, as if without lids. Under the chin is a kind of purse or bag, which seems adapted to receive the water that they swallow



with their food. The beak is composed of two long sticks, apparently as of wood, with which the bird makes a loud chattering noise in order to clear them. The coverts of the wings and back are black, with a bluish tint; the under part of the body is whitish. The neck is without feathers, like that of the ostrich, and is of a flesh colour.

#### EGYPTIAN IBIS.

THIS bird, so famous in history and mythology, is larger than the stork, measuring from thirty to forty inches in



length. The bill is seven inches long, is slightly curved, and ends in a blunt point. The plumage is a reddish white, almost inclining to red on the back and wings. It is found in great numbers in Lower Egypt, in places just



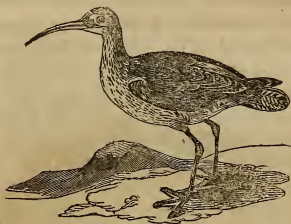
freed from the inundations of the Nile, where it is of great service in destroying insects and reptiles. The Ibis is frequently found in the sepulchres with the mummies, and was formerly held sacred by the Egyptians.

### THE CURLEW

Is a well-known bird, which in winter frequents sea-coasts and marshes, feeding chiefly on frogs and marine insects. In summer they retire to the mountainous and unfrequented parts to breed. They differ much in size, some weighing thirty-seven ounces, and some not twenty-



two; the length of the largest is twenty-five inches. Its bill is long, black and much curved. The upper parts of



the plumage are of a pale brown; the lower parts are white, marked with dark oblong spots. The female is somewhat larger than the male, which is commonly called the Jack Curlew.

### THE WOODCOCK

Is about as large as a pigeon, with a bill three inches long. The crown of the head and back of the neck are barred with black. It flaps its wings with some noise when it rises, and its flight is pretty rapid, though neither high nor long; its descent is so sudden that it seems to all like a stone. It principally feeds on worms and insects, which it draws out of the mud with its long bill, and its flesh is universally admired. The female builds a rude nest on the ground, and usually lays four or five eggs. The woodcock of America is nearly the same as that of Europe.

### SNIPE.

SNIPES are migratory birds, which, in Europe are supposed to breed chiefly in the lower lands of Germany

and Switzerland. Their food consists of small worms, slugs, and the larvae of insects. Their flesh is considered quite a dainty.

The Snipe measures about twelve inches from the point of the bill to the end of the tail; and from the point of each wing, when extended, about fifteen or sixteen. The feathers that spring from the shoulders reach almost as far as the end of the tail, the outward half from the shaft being of a pale red. The bill is black at the tip, and near three inches long; the tongue is sharp; the eyes of a hazel colour. The legs are of a pale green, the toes rather long, and the talons black.

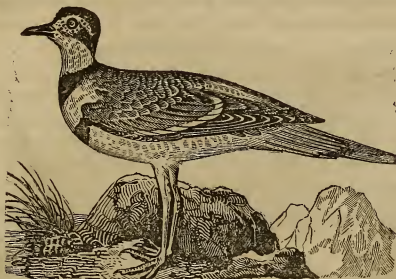
### THE LONG-LEGGED PLOVER.

THIS very singular bird inhabits the south of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, but very rarely visits England. It has a slender, black bill, two inches and a half in length; the back, the crown of the head, and the wings, are glossy black; the tail is white, inclining to grey. But what distinguishes this bird from all others is the astonishing and seemingly absurd length of its legs. It might with propriety be called the Stilt Plover.

### THE KILDEER PLOVER.

THIS bird is a common and constant resident of the United States. In winter it retreats to the sea-shore, but in spring it resorts to the newly ploughed fields, or level plains bare of grass, interspersed with narrow pools; or in the vicinity of the sea, or dry, bare and sandy fields. During the breeding season, nothing can exceed the alarm and anxiety of these birds. Their cries of *kildeer, kildeer*, as they winnow the air overhead, dive and course round you, or run along the ground counterfeiting lameness, are

shrill and incessant. During the evening, particularly in moonlight, their cries are frequently heard repeated with considerable violence. They are fond of wading in pools



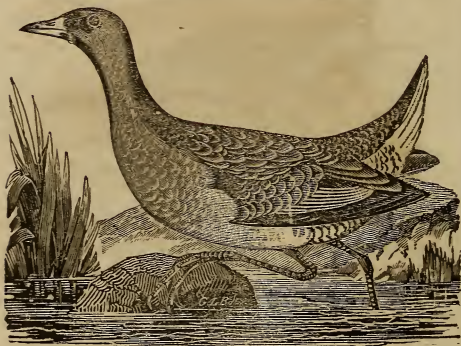
of water and often bathe themselves during the summer. They are strong and vigourous in the wings and run with great swiftness.

### COMMON RAIL.

IN Virginia this bird is called Sora, and in South Carolina, the Coot. Its history is involved in secrecy. No one can detect the first moment of its arrival, but all at once the reedy shores and grassy marshes of our large rivers swarm with them, thousands being sometimes found within the space of a few acres. These fly so feebly and flutteringly among the reeds, as to render it seemingly impossible that they should be able to make their way over a large extent of country. Yet on the first smart frost the whole suddenly disappear.

The Rail resort in great numbers to the shores of the Delaware, to feed on the seeds of the full-grown reeds.

Their flight is exceedingly low, and, shelter being abundant, is rarely extended far. They swim and dive with great rapidity, and sometimes when wounded, they dive, and rising under the gunwale of the boat, secrete themselves until they have an opportunity of escaping unno-



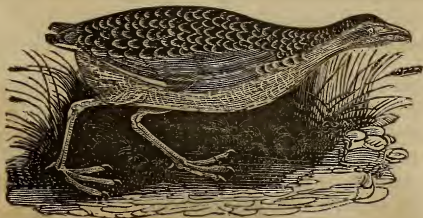
ticed. They are feeble and delicate in everything but the legs, which seem to possess great vigour and energy; and their bodies are so remarkably thin that they can pass between the reeds like rats.

The Rail is nine inches long; front, crown and chin black; upper parts olive brown streaked with black and white; the breast ash, marked with lines of white.

#### THE CORN CRAKE.

THIS bird is found in large numbers in the north of England and in Ireland; and inhabits Germany, France, Italy, and as far north as Norway. It lives in high grass or

corn, where it builds a nest of a few dry plants, and lays twelve or fourteen eggs. It weighs seven or eight ounces and measures nine inches and a half. The whole upper parts are of a rufous brown, the coverts of the wing and



tail of a fine bay, the under parts of a yellowish brown, the sides of the head inclining to ash colour. It is much sought after for the delicacy of its flesh. It flies slowly and with its legs hanging down.

### THE COOT.

THIS bird weighs from twenty-four to twenty-eight ounces. The upper parts of its plumage are black, the lower parts white. It is found in large streams remote from mankind, where it makes a nest of weeds, and lays it among the reeds, floating on the surface, rising and falling with the water. The reeds among which it is built keep it fast, so that it is seldom washed into the middle of the stream. But when this happens, the bird sits in her nest like a mariner in his boat, and steers, with her legs, her cargo into the nearest harbour. Here she continues to sit in great tranquility, regardless of the impetuosity of the current, and though the water penetrates her

nest, she hatches her eggs in that wet condition. It is an inert and timid bird and feeds in the evening upon fishes, insects, seeds and herbage. The Coot is not an uncommon bird in Britain, where it resides permanently, though changing its residence with the seasons.

### PURPLE GALLINULE.



THIS splendid bird is a native of the southern part of the continent of America, and has been seen within the limits of the United States. It is found, though rarely, in the rice fields and marshes of the State of Georgia, where it is supposed to breed.

## THE GREBE.

THE colour of this bird is white and black. Its legs are short, and made for swimming, not for walking. It seldom leaves the water, frequenting chiefly broad, shallow pools, where it finds sufficient prey. The plumage of the breast is of a most beautiful silvery white, and as glossy as satin.

Of the Grebe kind there are about thirteen species. The most common is the Crested Grebe. This bird is about the size of a duck. Its bill is of a reddish colour, and is somewhat more than two inches in length. On the top of the head and neck is a beautiful crest of feathers; those on the neck appearing like a collar or ruff, and seeming a good deal larger than they really are. The back and wings are of a darkish brown, inclining to black. The breast and belly are of a light ash colour; it has no tail; the legs and toes are broad and flat. It has an unpleasant cry, and will occasionally, when angry or pleased, raise or fall the feathers of its crest. This bird is a native of Europe.

## THE AVOSET

Is easily distinguished from all other birds by the form of its bill, which is very thin, slender, and bends considerably upwards. The SCOOPING AVOSET is about the size of the lapwing, or eighteen inches long; the bill is three inches and a half in length. The top of the head is black, the rest of the head, neck, and all the other parts of the body white, except the inner scapulars, the middle of the wing coverts and outer webs, and ends of the quills, which again are black. The legs are long, and of a bluish grey, and the toes have a connecting membrane. It weighs

about thirteen ounces, and is frequent, in the winter, on most of the sea-coasts of Europe, as well as in the fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridge, &c. in England. It feeds on worms and insects, which it scoops out of the sand with its bill. The AMERICAN AVOSET differs only in being something larger, and having the neck and breast of a deep cream colour. In Hudson's Bay there is a WHITE AVOSET.

### THE FLAMINGO

Is, perhaps, the most remarkable of waterfowl; it is one of the tallest, and the most beautiful. The body, which is of a beautiful scarlet, is no bigger than that of a swan; but its legs and neck are of such an extraordinary length that when it stands erect, it is six feet six inches high. Its wings, extended, are five feet six inches from tip to tip; and it is four feet eight inches from tip to tail. The head is round and small, with a large bill, seven inches long, partly red, partly black, and crooked like a bow. The legs and thighs, which are not much thicker than a man's finger, are about two feet eight inches high; and its neck near three feet long. The feet are feeble, and united by membranes, as in those of the goose. Of what use these membranes are it does not appear, as the bird is never seen swimming, its legs and thighs being sufficient to bear it into those depths where it seeks for prey.

This extraordinary bird is now chiefly found in America but was once known on all the coasts of Europe. It is still occasionally met with on the shores of the Mediterranean. Its beauty, its size, and the peculiar delicacy of its flesh, have been such temptations to destroy or take it, that it has long since deserted the shores frequented by man, and taken refuge in countries that are as yet but thinly peopled.



When the Europeans first came to America, and coasted down along the African shores, they found the Flamingos on several shores on either continent gentle, and no way distrustful of mankind. When the fowler had killed



one, the rest of the flock, far from attempting to fly, only regarded the fall of their companion in a kind of fixed astonishment: another and another shot was discharged;

and thus the fowler often levelled the whole flock, before one of them began to think of escaping.

But at present it is very different; and the Flamingo is not only one of the scarcest, but one of the shyest birds in the world, and the most difficult of approach. They chiefly keep near the most deserted and inhospitable shores; near salt water lakes and swampy islands. Their time of breeding is according to the climate in which they reside: in North America they breed in summer; on the other side of the line they take the most favourable season of the year. They build their nests in extensive marshes, and where they are in no danger of a surprise. The nest is not less curious than the animal that builds it: it is raised from the surface of the pool about a foot and a half, formed of mud, scraped up together, and hardened by the sun, or the heat of the bird's body; it resembles a truncated cone, or one of the pots which we see placed on chimneys; in the top it is hollowed out to the shape of the bird, and in that cavity the female lays her eggs, without any lining but the well cemented mud that forms the sides of the building. She always lays two eggs, and no more; and as her legs are immoderately long, she straddles on the nest, while her legs hang down, one on each side, into the water. It is long before the young ones are able to fly; but they run with amazing swiftness. They are sometimes caught; and, very different from the old ones, suffer themselves to be carried home, and are tamed very easily.

### THE GREAT AUK

Is the size of a goose; its bill is black, about four inches and a quarter in length, and covered at the base with short velvet-like feathers. The upper parts of the plumage are

black, and the lower parts white, with a spot of white between the bill and the eyes, and an oblong stripe of the same on the wings, which are too short for flight. The bird is also a very bad walker, but swims and dives well.



It is, however, observed by seamen, that it is never seen out of soundings, so that its appearance serves as an infallible direction to land. It feeds on the lump fish and others of the same size ; and is frequent on the coasts of Norway, Greenland, Newfoundland, &c. It lays its eggs close to the seamark.

### THE PUFFIN.

Is the size of the teal, weighs about twelve ounces, and is twelve inches in length. The bill is much compressed ; the half next the point is red, that next the base is blue grey. It has three furrows or grooves impressed in it ; one in the livid part, two in the red. The eyes are fenced with a protuberant skin, of a livid colour ; and they are grey or ash coloured.

The Puffin, like all the rest of this kind, has its legs

thrown so far back, that it can hardly move without tumbling. This makes it rise with difficulty, and subject to many falls before it gets upon the wing; but as it is a small bird, when it once rises, it can continue its flight with great celerity.

All the winter these birds are absent, visiting regions too remote for discovery. At the latter end of March, or



the beginning of April, a troop of their spies or harbingers come and stay two or three days, as it were to view and search out their former situations, and see whether all is well. This done, they once more depart; and, about the beginning of May, return again with the whole army of their companions. But if the season happens to be stormy and tempestuous, and the sea troubled, the unfortunate voyagers undergo incredible hardships; and they are found, by hundreds, cast away upon the shores, lean and perished with famine.

The Puffin, when it prepares for breeding, which always happens a few days after its arrival, begins to scrape out a hole in the ground, not far from the shore; and when it has penetrated some way into the earth, it then throws it-

self upon its back, and with its bill and claws thus burrows inward, till it has dug a hole with several windings and turnings, from eight to ten feet deep. It particularly seeks to dig under a stone, where it expects the greatest security. In this fortified retreat it lays one egg ; which, though the bird be not much bigger than a pigeon, is the size of a hen's.

Few birds or beasts will venture to attack them in their retreats. When the great sea raven comes to take away their young, the Puffin boldly opposes him. Their meeting affords a most singular combat. As soon as the raven approaches, the Puffin catches him under the throat with its beak, and sticks its claws into its breast, which makes the raven, with a loud screaming, attempt to get away ; but the little bird still holds fast to the invader, nor lets him go till they both come to the sea, where they drop down together, and the raven is drowned : yet the raven is but too often successful ; and, invading the Puffin at the bottom of its hole, devours both the parent and its family.

### THE GUILLEMOT

Is nearly allied to the preceding genus, but it wants the characteristic bill, which in this genus is slender, strong, and pointed.

The largest species of this bird with which we are acquainted is the FOOLISH GUILLEMOT, which weighs about twenty-four ounces, and is seventeen inches in length. The bill is black, and three inches in length. The head, neck, back, wings, and tail, are of a deep mouse colour ; the tips of the lesser quill feathers, and all the under parts of the plumage are white. They accompany the Auk in its visits to the northern shores, and are such foolish birds

that they will not quit the rock, though they see their companions killed around them.

The **LESSER GUILLEMOT** weighs about fifteen ounces. The upper parts of its plumage are darker than in the former species. The **BLACK GUILLEMOT** is entirely black, except a large mark of white on the wings. In winter, however, this bird is said to change to white; and there is a



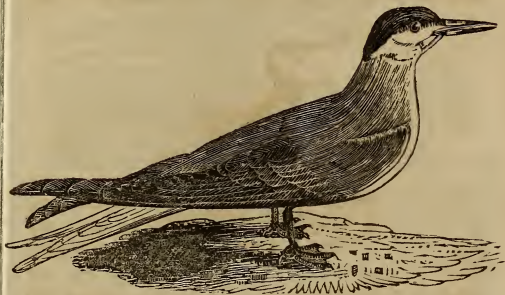
variety in Scotland not uncommon, which is spotted, and has been described under the name of the spotted Greenland Dove. The **MARbled GUILLEMOT**, which is found at Kamtschatka, receives its name from its plumage, which is dusky, elegantly marbled with white.

### THE GREAT TERN.

**THIS** bird is found on the sea-shores of Europe, Asia, and America. It builds no nest, but lays generally three eggs, upon the surface of the dry drift grass, on the beach or salt marsh. These are covered by the female only during the night, or in wet, raw and stormy weather. They are of a yellowish dun colour, sprinkled with dark brown. The young are generally produced at interval

of a day or so from each other, and are regularly fed for several weeks, before their wings are sufficiently grown to enable them to fly.

The Tern measures above fourteen inches in length, thirty in extent, and weighs more than four ounces. The bill is crimson, tipped with black, and about two inches and



a quarter in length; the throat, cheeks, neck and whole of the under parts are white. The upper part of the plumage is of a fine pale lead colour; the legs and feet are red.

The bird is sometimes called the Sea-Swallow. Its flight, however, is not in the sweeping, shooting style of the land swallows; but the motions of its long wings are slower, and more in the manner of the gull. It has great power of wing, and strength in the muscles of the neck, which enable it to make sudden and violent plunges on its prey from a considerable height.

## THE LESSER TERN.



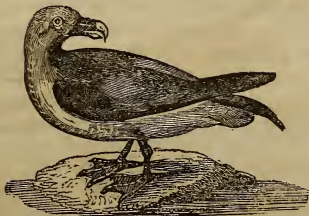
THIS species is considerably smaller than the preceding, but surpasses it in the rich, glossy, satin-like white plumage, with which its throat, breast and whole lower parts are covered. It is a bird of passage, but does not visit very high northern latitudes, being delicate, and susceptible of cold. The eggs of this bird are generally four in number, an inch and a half in length, of a dirty yellowish brown, dashed all over with red blotches.

In former times, the fishermen used to float a cross of wood, in the middle of which was fastened a small fish for a bait, with limed twigs stuck to the four corners; and the Tern, darting on this, was entangled by the wings. This must have been for mere sport, or for its feathers, as this bird is usually lean and savouring very strongly of fish.

This bird is met with on the shores of America, in the south of Russia, about the Black and Caspian Sea, and in Siberia about the Irtish.



## THE FULMAR

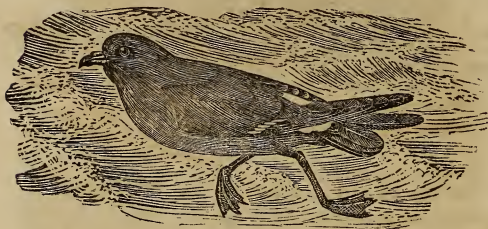


Is superior to the size of the common gull, being about fifteen inches in length, and in weight seventeen ounces. The bill is very strong, yellow, and hooked at the end. The head, neck, and all the under parts of the body, are white; the back and wings ash-coloured, the quills dusky, and the tail white. It feeds on the blubber of whales which supplies the reservoir, whence it spouts, with a constant stock of ammunition. This oil is esteemed by the inhabitants of the North as a sovereign remedy in many complaints both external and internal. The flesh is also considered by them as a delicacy, and the bird is therefore in great request at St. Kilda. When a whale is taken, these birds will, in defiance of all endeavours, light upon it, and pick out large lumps of fat, even while it is alive.

## THE STORMY PETREL

Is about the size of a house swallow. The general colour of the plumage is black, except about the rump, which is white. Stormy Petrels have been seen in flocks which have been estimated to contain at least a hundred

and fifty millions of them. They are always to be found on the shores of Britain, and seem to be diffused all over the world. They sometimes hover over the water like swallows, and sometimes appear to run on the top of it: they are also excellent divers. It skims along the hollows of the waves, and through the spray upon their tops, at the astonishing rate of sixty miles in an hour. They are very clamorous, and are called by the sailors *Mother Cary's Chickens*, who observe they never settle or sit upon the

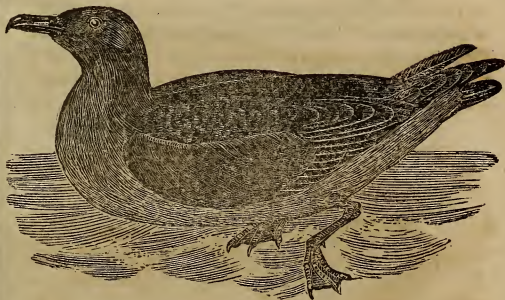


water but when stormy weather is to be expected. They are found in most parts of the world; and in the Feroe islands the inhabitants draw a wick through the body of the bird, from the mouth to the rump, which serves them as a candle, being fed by the vast proportion of oil which this little animal contains. This oil it is supposed to collect from the ocean by means of the feathers on its breast.

There are about twenty species of foreign birds of this kind. In the high southern latitude *e* is found which is the size of a goose, and on that account called the **GIANT PETREL**. The upper parts of its plumage are pale brown, mottled with dusky white; the under parts are white.

There is another species in Norfolk Island, which burrows in the sand like a rabbit.

## THE SKUA GULL.



THIS bird is of the size of the raven. The upper parts of the head, neck, back and wings are deep brown; the under parts are of a pale rusty ash colour. The legs are black, rough and warty, and the talons very strong and hooked. It is a most formidable bird, preying not only upon fish, but upon all the smaller waterfowl, and even on young lambs. In defending its young, it has the fierceness of the eagle; and when the inhabitants of the Faro isles attack its nest, they hold a knife over their heads, on which the Skua will transfix itself in its fall on the invaders.

This species is met with in the high latitudes of both hemispheres, where they are much more common than in the warm or temperate parts of the globe. They make their nests among the dry grass, and when the young are reared they disperse themselves, commonly in pairs, over the ocean.

## THE WAGEL GULL



HAS its whole plumage composed of a mixed brown ash colour and white. It weighs about three pounds.

## THE SHEARWATER.

THIS bird measures in length fifteen inches, in extent thirty-one, and weighs about seventeen ounces. The bill is about an inch and three quarters long; the tip black, the other parts yellowish. The inner coverts of the wings and under parts of the body are white; the upper parts black, tinted more or less with grey. The legs are flattened on the sides and weak, light coloured, or whitish on the fore parts, and dusky behind.

The Shearwater is found in greater or smaller numbers in almost every part of the water world, in both hemis-

pheres, and in every climate. In the Hebrides, and other islands with which the seas of Scotland are dotted, they



are caught by the natives in great numbers, and used for the same purposes as the Fulmar.

### THE DUN DIVER.



THIS bird has a red bill two inches and a quarter long, head and upper part of the neck deep chestnut, the crest of a deeper shade of the same colour. The back, wing-coverts, and sides of the body are of a bluish ash or lead colour; the lower parts are yellowish white. It feeds upon fish, for which it dives; it is said to build its nest upon trees, like the heron and the cormorant.

## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.



THIS bird weighs only two pounds. The head and neck are black, glossed with green; the rest of the neck and the belly white: the upper part of the back is glossy black; on the wings there are white bars tipped with black, and the breast is reddish, mixed with black and white. The plumage of the female is less splendid; and they differ in another respect, viz. that the male has a very full and large crest, the female only the rudiment of one. It is common on the shores of the United States as well as in Europe.

## CANADA GOOSE.

THIS is the common Wild Goose of the United States, universally known over the whole country; whose regular periodical migrations are the sure signals of returning spring, or approaching winter. The general opinion is, that they are on their way to the lakes to breed; but the

inhabitants on the confines of the great lakes are themselves ignorant of the particular breeding places of those birds. *There*, their journey north is but commencing, and how far it extends it is impossible for us at present to ascertain. They were seen by Hearne in large flocks within the arctic circle, and were then pursuing their way still farther north. They have been seen also on the dreary coast of Spitsbergen, feeding on the water's edge. It is



highly probable that they extend their migrations under the very pole itself, amid the silent desolation of unknown countries, shut out from the eye of man by everlasting barriers of ice. That such places abound with suitable food we cannot for a moment doubt.



"The flight of the Wild Geese," says Mr. Wilson, "is heavy and laborious, generally in a straight line or in two lines approximating to a point. In both cases, the van is led by an old gander, who every now and then pipes his well known *honk*, as if to ask how they come on; and the honk of "all's well" is generally returned by some of the party. When bewildered in foggy weather, they appear sometimes to be in great distress, flying about in an irregular manner, making a great clamour. On these occasions, should they alight on the earth, as they sometimes do, they meet with speedy death and destruction. The autumnal flight lasts from the middle of August to the middle of October; the vernal flight from the middle of April to the middle of May.

"Wounded Geese have frequently been domesticated, and readily pair with tame geese. On the approach of spring, however, they discover symptoms of great uneasiness, frequently looking up in the air and attempting to go off. Some, whose wings have been closely cut, have travelled on foot in a northerly direction, and have been found at the distance of several miles from home. They hail every flock that passes overhead, and the salute is sure to be returned by the voyagers, who are only prevented from alighting among them, by the presence and habitations of man. The gunners sometimes take one or two of these domesticated Geese with them to those places over which the wild ones are accustomed to fly; and concealing themselves, wait for a flight, which is no sooner perceived by the decoy Geese, than they begin calling aloud, until the flock approaches so near, that the gunners are enabled to make great havoc among them with their musket shot.

"The English at Hudson's Bay depend greatly on Geese



and in favourable seasons kill three or four thousand, and barrel them up for use. They send out their servants as well as Indians to kill them on their passage. They mimic the cackle of the Geese so well, that many of them are allured to the spot where they are concealed, and are thus easily shot. When in good order, the Wild Goose weighs from ten to fourteen pounds, and is estimated to yield half a pound of feathers. It is domesticated in numerous quarters of the country, and is remarked for being extremely watchful, and more sensible of approaching changes in the atmosphere than the common Grey Goose. In England, France, and Germany, they have been long ago domesticated.

“Mr. Platt, a respectable farmer on Long Island, being out shooting in one of the bays which in that part of the country abound in water-fowl, wounded a Wild Goose. Being unable to fly, he caught it, and brought it home alive. It proved to be a female, and turning it into his yard with a flock of tame Geese, it soon became quite familiar, and in a little time its wounded wing entirely healed. In the following spring, when the Wild Geese migrate to the northward, a flock passed over Mr. Platt’s barn-yard, and just at that moment, their leader, happening to sound his bugle note, our Goose, in whom its new habits and enjoyments had not quite extinguished the love of liberty, and remembering the well-known sound, spread its wings, mounted into the air, joined the travellers, and soon disappeared. In the succeeding autumn, the Wild Geese, as usual, returned from the northward, in great numbers, to pass the winter in our bays and rivers. Mr. Platt happened to be standing in his yard, when a flock passed directly over his barn. At that instant, he observed three Geese detach themselves from the rest, and after

wheeling round several times, alight in the middle of the yard. Imagine his surprise and pleasure, when by certain well remembered signs, he recognised in one of the three his long lost fugitive. It was she indeed ! She had travelled many hundred miles to the lakes ; had there hatched and reared her offspring ; and had now returned with her little family, to share with them the sweets of civilized life. The birds were all living, and in Mr. Platt's possession, a year ago, and had shown no disposition whatever to leave him."

### SPUR-WINGED GOOSE.



The upper parts of the head and neck of this bird are of a dingy brown ; the sides of the throat are white, spotted with brown ; the lower parts of the neck, sides of the

breast, and all the upper plumage appear black, in some places resplendently bronzed and glossed with brilliant green. On the bend of the wing, or wrist, is placed a strong white horny spur, turning upwards, about five eighths of an inch in length and pointing rather inwards; the edges of the wing are white, all the under parts the same. This beautiful bird is nearly of the bulk of the Wild Goose, but its legs and toes are somewhat longer, and of a red or orange yellow. This bird is a native of northern and western Africa: it is very difficult to accustom it to the climate of the north of Europe.

## BRENT GOOSE.



THE plumage of this bird is mostly of an uniform brown, the feathers being edged with ash. The head and upper half of the neck are black, with the exception of a white patch on each side, near the throat; the tail,

quills and legs are dusky ; the bill is dark, rather of a narrow shape, and only about an inch and a half long.

The Brent Geese, like the other species, quit the rigours of the north in winter, and spread themselves southward in the search of milder climates. Their varied modes of living, as well as their other habits and propensities, their migrations, haltings, and breeding places do not materially differ from those of the other numerous families of Wild Geese.

### SWAN GOOSE.



THIS bird is more than three feet in length, and of a size between the Swan and the Common Goose. It is

distinguished from others of the Goose tribe by its upright and stately deportment, by having a large knob on the base of the upper mandible, and a skin, almost bare of feathers, hanging down like a pouch or wattle under the throat. The base of the bill is orange; a dark brown or black stripe runs down the hinder part of the neck, from the head to the back; the fore part of the neck, and the breast, are yellowish brown; the back, and all the upper parts, brownish grey, edged with a lighter colour; the sides are clouded with nearly the same colours as the back, and edged with white.

It is said that these birds originally were found in Guinea only; but they are now become common, in a wild, as well as domesticated state, both in warm and in cold climates.

Tame Geese, of this species, like other birds, vary much in the colour of the bill, legs and plumage, as well as in size. They are kept by the curious in various parts of England, and are more noisy than the common Goose; nothing can stir in the night or day, without their sounding the alarm, by hoarse cackling and shrill cries. They breed with the Common Goose, and their offspring are as numerous as those of any other kind.

### THE GANNET, OR SOLAN GOOSE.

Is of the size of a tame goose, but its wings much longer, being six feet over. The bill is six inches long, straight almost to the point. It has no nostrils, but has in their place a long furrow that reaches almost to the end of the bill. From the corner of the mouth is a narrow slip of black bare skin, that extends to the hind part of the head; beneath the skin is another, that, like the pouch of the Pelican, is elastic, and of size sufficient to contain five or

six entire herrings, which in the breeding season it carries at once to its mate or its young.

These birds, which subsist entirely upon fish, chiefly resort to those uninhabited islands where their food is found in plenty, and men seldom come to disturb them. The islands to the north of Scotland, the Skelig islands off the coast of Kerry, in Ireland, and those that lie in the north sea off Norway, abound with them. But it is on the Bass Island, in the Frith of Edinburgh, that they are seen in the greatest abundance. "It is scarcely possible to walk there without treading on them: the flocks of birds upon the wing are so numerous as to darken the air like a cloud; and their noise is such, that one cannot, without difficulty, be heard by the person next to him."

The Gannet is a bird of passage. In winter it seeks the more southern coasts of Cornwall, in England, hovering over the shoals of herrings and pilchards that then come down from the northern seas: its first appearance in the northern islands is in the beginning of spring; and it continues to breed till the end of summer. But, in general, its motions are determined by the migrations of the immense shoals of herrings that come pouring down at that season through the British Channel, and supply all Europe as well as this bird with their spoil. The Gannet assiduously attends the shoal in their passage, keeps with them in their whole circuit round the island, and shares with the fishermen this exhaustless banquet. As it is strong of wing, it never comes near the land, but is constant to its prey. The young Gannet is accounted a great dainty by the Scots, and sold very dear.

These birds breed but once a year, on the highest and steepest rocks near the sea, and lay only one egg, but if that be taken away, they lay another; and if that be also



taken away, then a third ; but never more for that season. Their eggs are white, and rather less than those of the common goose ; and their nest large, composed of such substances as are found floating on the surface of the sea. The young birds during the first year differ greatly in colour from the old ones ; being of a dusky hue, speckled with numerous triangular white spots.

These birds, when they pass from place to place, unite in small flocks of from five to fifteen ; and, except in very fine weather, fly low, near the shore, but never pass over it ; doubling the capes and projecting parts, and keeping nearly at an equal distance from the land. During their fishing they rise high into the air, and sail aloft over the shoals of herrings or pilchards, much in the manner of kites. When they observe the shoal crowded thick together, they close their wings to their sides and precipitate themselves head foremost into the water, dropping almost like a stone. Their eye in this act is so correct, that they never fail to rise with a fish in their mouth. If in flying away with one, they see another they like better, they immediately drop the first to seize it. The force with which it descends on its prey may be imagined from a circumstance which occurred, some years ago, at Penzance, in Cornwall. As some pilchards were lying on a fir plank, a Gannet darted down on them with such impetuosity as to strike its bill quite through the board, which was an inch and a quarter thick, and, as may be supposed, to kill itself on the spot. The St. Kildans sometimes take them by fastening a herring to a plank, and setting it afloat. The bird swoops down, and breaks its neck by its violence.

## RED BREASTED GOOSE.



THIS bird is above twenty inches in length, and three feet ten in breadth. The chin, throat and crown of the head are black; two stripes of white fall down from behind each eye, on the sides of the neck and meet in the middle; the other parts of the neck, and the upper part of the breast are deep rusty red; back and wings dusky; sides and lower part of the breast black.

This beautiful species is a native of Russia and Siberia, whence they migrate southward in the autumn and return in spring. They are said to frequent the Caspian sea, and are supposed to winter in Persia. They have been found but very rarely, in Great Britain.



## THE SWAN.

So much difference is there between this bird when on land and in the water, that it is hardly to be supposed the same, for in the latter, no bird can possibly exceed it for beauty and majestic appearance. When it ascends from its favourite element, its motions are awkward, and its neck is stretched forward with an air of stupidity; it has, indeed, the air of being only a larger sort of goose; but when seen smoothly gliding along the water, displaying a thousand graceful attitudes, and moving at pleasure without the smallest apparent effort, there is not a more beautiful figure in all nature. In its form, we find no broken or harsh lines; in its motions, nothing constrained nor abrupt, but the roundest contours, and the easiest transitions; the eye wanders over the whole with unalloyed pleasure, and with every change of position every part assumes a new grace. It will swim faster than a man can walk.

This bird has long been rendered domestic; and it is now a doubt whether there be any of the tame kind in a state of nature. The colour of the tame Swan is entirely white, and it generally weighs full twenty pounds. Under the feathers is a very thick soft down, which is made an article of commerce, for purposes of both use and ornament. The windpipe sinks down into the lungs in the ordinary manner; and it is the most silent of all the feathered tribe; it can do nothing more than hiss, which it does on receiving any provocation. In these respects it is very different from the wild or whistling Swan.

This beautiful bird is as delicate in its appetites as it is elegant in its form. Its chief food is corn, bread, herbs growing in the water, and roots and seeds, which are found near the margin. At the time of incubation it prepares a

nest in some retired part of the bank, and chiefly where there is an islet in the stream. This is composed of water-plants, long grass, and sticks: and the male and female assist in forming it with great assiduity. The Swan lays seven or eight white eggs, one every other day, much larger than those of a goose, with a hard shell. It sits six weeks before its young are excluded; which are ash coloured when they first leave the shell, and for some months after. It is not a little dangerous to approach the old ones. When their little families are feeding among them; their fears as well as their pride seem to take the alarm, and when in danger, the old birds carry off the young ones on their backs. A female has been known to attack and drown a fox, which was swimming towards her nest: they are able to throw down and trample on youths of fifteen or sixteen; and it was once thought that an old Swan could break the leg of a man with a single stroke of its wing.

Swans were formerly held in such great esteem in England, that, by an act of Edward the Fourth, none, except the son of the king, was permitted to keep a Swan, unless possessed of a freehold to the value of five marks a year. By a subsequent act, the punishment for taking their eggs was imprisonment for a year and a day, and a fine at the king's will. At present they are not valued for the delicacy of their flesh: but numbers are still preserved for their beauty. Many may be seen on the Thames, where they are esteemed royal property, and it is accounted felony to steal their eggs. The Swan is a long-lived bird, and sometimes attains the age of more than a hundred years.

The WILD, OR WHISTLING SWAN, though so strongly resembling this in colour and form, is yet a different bird; for it is very differently formed within. The wild Swan is less than the tame, almost a fourth; for as the one

weighs twenty pounds, the other only weighs sixteen pounds and three quarters. The colour of the tame Swan



is all over white; that of the wild bird is along the back and the tips of the wings of ash colour; the tame Swan is mute, the wild one has a sharp loud cry, particularly while flying. But these are slight differences, compared to what are found upon dissection. The wild species is found in most of the northern regions, in America, and probably in the East Indies.

**The BLACK SWAN.** New Holland, that country of animal wonders, presents us with a bird which the ancients imagined could not possibly have existence. The Black Swan is exactly similar in its form to the Swan of the old world, but is somewhat smaller in size. Every part of its

plumage is perfectly black, with the exception of the primary and a few of the secondary quill feathers, which are white. The bill is of a bright red above, is crossed at the anterior part by a whitish band; is of a greyish white on

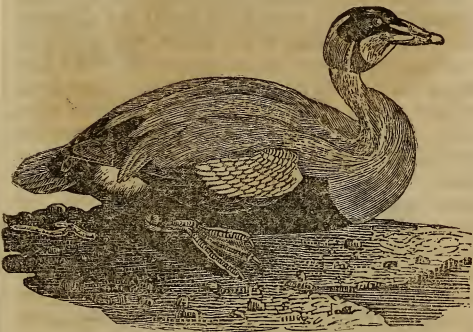


the under part; and, in the male, is surmounted at the base by a slight protuberance. The legs and feet are of a dull ash colour. Black Swans, in their wild state, are extremely shy. They are found in Van Dieman's Land, New South Wales, and on the western coast of New Holland; and are generally seen swimming on a lake, in flocks consisting of eight or nine individuals. On being disturbed, they fly off in a direct line one after the other, like wild geese.

### THE EIDER DUCK

HAS a black cylindrical bill, and the feathers of the forehead and cheeks advance far into the base. In the male,

the feathers of part of the head, the lower part of the breast, the belly, and the tail are black, as are also the quill feathers of the wings; and nearly all the rest of the body is white. The legs are green. The female is of a reddish brown, variously marked with black and dusky streaks. It is principally found in the western isles of Scotland, on the coasts of Norway, Iceland, and Greenland, and in many parts of North America. On the American shores it is said to breed as far south as Portland in Maine. The female lays from three to five eggs,



(sometimes as many as eight,) which are large, smooth, glossy, and of a pale olive colour. She generally lays among stones, or plants, near the sea, but in a soft bed of down, which she plucks from her own breast. Sometimes two females will lay their eggs in the same nest, in which case they always agree remarkably well. As long as the female is sitting, the male continues on watch near the

shore ; but as soon as the young are hatched, he leaves them. The mother, however, remains with them a considerable time afterwards. It is curious to observe her manner of leading them out of the nest, almost as soon as they creep from the eggs. Going before them to the shore, they trip after her ; and, when she comes to the waterside, she takes them on her back, and swims a few yards with them, when she dives ; and the young ones are left floating on the surface, obliged to take care of themselves. They are seldom seen afterwards on land.

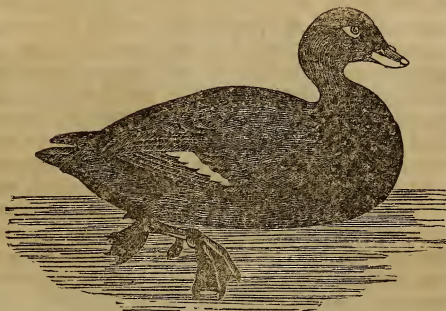
In Iceland, the Eider Ducks generally build their nests on small islands, not far from the shore ; and sometimes even near the dwellings of the natives, who treat them with so much attention and kindness as to render them nearly tame. From these birds is produced the soft down, so well known by the name of eider, or edder down, which is so light and expansive that a couple of handfuls will fill a down quilt, which, in cold countries, is used instead of a quilt or blanket. In the breeding season the birds pluck it from their breasts to line their nests, and make a soft bed for the young ones. When the natives come to the nests, they carefully remove the female and take away the superfluous down and eggs ; after this, they replace the female : she then begins to lay afresh, and covers her eggs with new down, which she also plucks from her body ; when this is scarce, or she has no more left, the male comes to her assistance, and covers the eggs with his down, which is white, and easily distinguished from that of the female.

When the young ones leave the nest, which is about an hour after they are hatched, it is once more plundered. The most eggs and the best down are got during the first three weeks of their laying ; and it has generally been

observed, that they lay the greatest number of eggs in rainy weather. One female; during the time of laying generally gives half a pound of down; which, however, is reduced one half after it is cleaned. The Iceland Company at Copenhagen generally export from Iceland about one thousand five hundred or two thousand pounds weight of this down, besides what is privately purchased by foreigners.

The Greenlanders kill these birds with darts; pursuing them in their little boats, watching their course by the air bubbles when they dive, and always striking them when they rise to the surface wearied. The flesh is valued as food, and their skins are made into warm and comfortable under garments.

### VELVET DUCK.



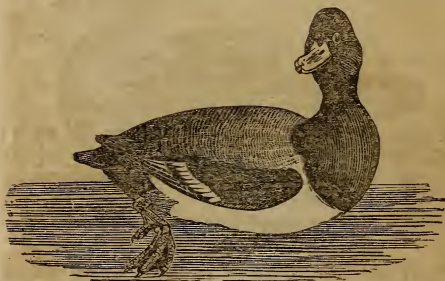
THIS bird is about twenty inches in length, with a broad bill, and a black knob at the base. The plumage is black, on the under parts inclining to brown; across the



middle of the wing is a band of white ; the legs are red, claws black. The female of this species is more inclined to brown ; the whole upper parts and neck are dark brownish drab ; the throat white, marked with dusky specks ; legs and feet yellow.

This bird is not uncommon in Denmark, Russia, and Siberia. It is also found in some parts of Kamtschatka where it is said to breed, going far inland to lay. The eggs are eight or ten in number and white ; the males depart and leave the females to remain with the young until they are able to fly. In the river Ochotsky, they are so numerous that the natives, in large bodies, drive them up the river before them, and when the tide ebbs, knock them on the head with clubs in such numbers, that each man will have from twenty to thirty to his share. This bird is a native of both continents.

### SCAUP DUCK.



THIS bird is about twenty-one inches in length ; with a broad bill ; head and upper part of the neck black, gloss-



ed with green; the lower part of the neck and breast black; back, pale grey crossed with small undulating lines of black; the under part of the body white; the tail composed of dusky-black feathers; legs lead-colour. It is frequent in most parts of Great Britain in winter, and is often found in fresh waters. It is common in all the northern countries of Europe, and is found in the warmer months at Hudson's Bay.

During the summer months, when the *larvæ* of various insects are to be found in the mud at the bottom of the pond, these birds are continually diving: but they are perfectly contented with barley, and become so tame as to come to the edge of the water for a bit of bread. When caught and taken from their natural wild habits, they appear more familiar than any other water birds.

#### THE CANVASS BACK DUCK.



THIS bird is peculiar to America and is more celebrated than any other for the excellent flavour of its flesh. They

breed, as is supposed, on the borders of the northern lakes, or of Hudson's Bay; they have seldom been known to visit any other waters than those of the Chesapeake, and of late years they have confined themselves entirely to the Potomac and Susquehanna. They feed on the bulbous root or grass, which grows on the flats in the fresh water of these rivers, and has very much the colour and flavour of garden celery. They feed in from six to ten feet water, they are expert divers, and, with great strength and agility, seize the grass near the bottom, bring it up to the surface, and biting off the root leave the rest to float on the water.

### SHIELDRAKE.



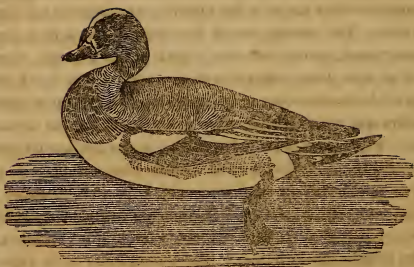
THE male of this prettily marked bird measures about two feet in length, and three and a half in breadth. The head, and upper part of the neck are of a glossy dark, or

bottle green ; the lower part of the neck, to the breast, is encircled with white, and joined by a broad band of bright orange bay, which is spread over, and covers the breast and shoulders. The back, wing coverts, and upper tail coverts are white ; on the breast is a broad band of a bay-colour, growing narrower as it passes backwards under the wings, and enclosing the lower part of the neck behind ;—the webs of some of the wing-feathers are glossed with gold and green, forming a speculum or beauty spot. The tail consists of fourteen white feathers, tipped with black ; the legs are of a reddish flesh colour.

The female is less than the male, and her plumage is not so vivid and beautiful. She makes her nest, and rears her young, under ground, in the rabbit holes which are made in the sand-hills near the sea-shore. It is chiefly formed of the fine down plucked from her own breast ; she lays from twelve to sixteen roundish white eggs, and the incubation lasts about thirty days. She practices the same tricks for the protection of her young, that are practised by the Wild Duck and Partridge.

This species is dispersed, in greater or less numbers, over the warm, as well as the cold climates, in various parts of the world : they are met with as far north as Iceland in the spring, and in Sweden and the Orkney Islands in the winter. Captain Cook notices them, among other sea-fowl, on the coast of Van Diemen's Land, and they have been seen, in great numbers, at the Falkland Islands. Although they are not numerous on the British and the opposite shores, they are common enough in the British Isles, where they remain throughout the year, and occasionally straggle away from the sea-coast to the inland lakes.

## THE WIDGEON.



THIS bird weighs about twenty-two ounces; it has a black nail at the end of the upper mandible of the bill, the other part of which is of a lead colour; the structure of the head and mouth very much resembles the common wild duck, only the head does not seem to be quite so large, in proportion to the body, which also appears of a finer shape, and with longer wings. The crown of the head towards the base of the bill is of a pale pink colour inclining to a reddish white; the other parts of the head and neck are red; the sides of the body and the upper part of the breast are tintured with a very fair, glossy, and beautiful claret colour, with a few small transverse lines of black.

The feathers on the back are brown, the edges more pale or ash coloured; the quill feathers are some of them brown, with white tips, others have their outward webs of a blackish purple; other parts, especially those beyond the covert feathers, of a lovely fine blue; some of the ex-

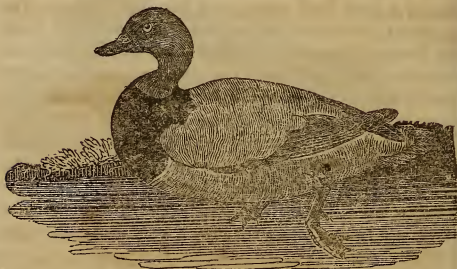
terior feathers have their outward webs inclining to black, with a fine purple gloss upon the borders, on which there are a number of small light coloured spots; the rest of the wing feathers are of a beautiful party-coloured brown and white. The upper part of the tail is ash coloured; the under part, behind the vent, black. The legs and feet are of a dark lead colour, and the claws black. The young of both sexes are grey, and this hue they retain till February, when the plumage of the male begins to assume its variegated tints. He is said to retain his bright colours till the end of July, and then to become dark and grey, so as scarcely to be distinguished from the female.

Widgeons are common in Cambridgeshire, England, the Isle of Ely, &c. where the male is called the Widgeon, and the female the Whewer. They feed upon wild periwinkles, grass, weeds, &c. which grow at the bottom of rivers and lakes. Their flesh has a very delicious taste, not inferior to teal, or wild ducks.

### POCHARD.

THIS bird is nineteen inches in length, and two feet and a half in breadth. The head and neck are of a glossy chestnut, joined to a large space of sooty black which covers the breast, and is spread over the shoulders; the lower part of the back, and the tail coverts are also black. The rest of the plumage is wholly covered with prettily freckled, slender, dusky threads, disposed in zigzag lines, or a pale ground, more or less shaded off with ash and brown. The tail consists of twelve short feathers, of a dark brownish ash, which have also a hoary grey appearance; the legs and toes are lead colour, shaded and dashed with black.

The Pochard is of a plump round shape, and its walk is heavy, ungraceful and waddling. On the wing it flies with great rapidity, and in flocks of from twenty to forty. The attempts which have been hitherto made to domesticate this species have failed of success.



These birds leave the north on the approach of winter, and migrate as far south, it is said, as Egypt in Africa, and Carolina and Louisiana, in America. They arrive in the marshes of France about the end of October, in tolerably numerous flocks; and numbers of them are caught in the fens of Lincolnshire during the winter season, and sold in the London markets. It has not yet been discovered whether any of them remain to breed in England.

### PINTAIL DUCK.

THIS bird is twenty-eight inches in length, and thirty-eight in breadth. The head and throat are of a rusty brown, mottled with small dark spots, and tinged behind the neck with purple; the rest of the neck, the breast and

the upper part of the back, are elegantly pencilled with black and white waved lines, the wing-coverts are ash brown, tipped with dull orange; below these the wing is obliquely crossed by the beauty spot of glossy bronze-purple green, with a lower border of black and white: this spangle is formed by the outer webs and tips of the middle quills the rest of the quills are dusky. The female is smaller than the male, and her plumage is of a much plainer cast.



These birds do not visit the temperate and warm climates in great numbers, except in very severe winters; the greater part of them remaining during that season in various parts of the Russian dominions, Sweden and Norway, and also in the same latitudes both in Asia and America. They are esteemed a very excellent article of food.



## LONG TAILED DUCK.



THIS species is considerably less than the last, and comes more nearly to the size of the Widgeon. The front of the head is of a pale reddish brown, the rest of the head and neck is white; the breast, shoulders, back, and lesser wing coverts are of a deep chocolate colour. The legs and toes are pale blue, the webs and nails black.

The female makes her nest among the grass near the water, lined, like that of the Eider Duck, with her own equally valuable down. Her eggs are of a bluish white colour, about the size of those of a pullet; it is said that the number of these varies from five to fifteen.

The Long-Tailed Ducks do not in the winter, like many of the other tribes, quit their native haunts in the northern extremities of the world, but remain there through all its rigours in considerable numbers. Numerous flocks however spread themselves southward in the winter, in Ameri-



ca, Europe, and Asia. In all these parts they frequent the lakes in the interior as well as the sea-shores. They fly swiftly, but seldom to a great distance, making a loud and singular cry. They are expert divers and are supposed to live chiefly on shell-fish. They are often called *Old Wives* in the United States; and on the Chesapeake they go by the name of South Southerly, from their cry.

### GOLDEN-EYE DUCK.



THIS bird is nineteen inches in length; with a bluish black bill, short, thick and elevated at the base. The head is large, slightly crested and black, or rather glossy green; the lower part of the neck, the breast, and all beneath, are white; the back and upper tail coverts black; tail black; legs orange. The female is considerably less, and differs somewhat in its plumage.

The Golden-Eye is a native of Europe, and is found in the breeding season in Norway and Sweden. It is also well known on the sea-coast of America, and on the lakes and rivers of the interior, and may be easily recognized, by the vigorous whistling of its wings as it passes through the air. It leaves that country for the north in the month to April.

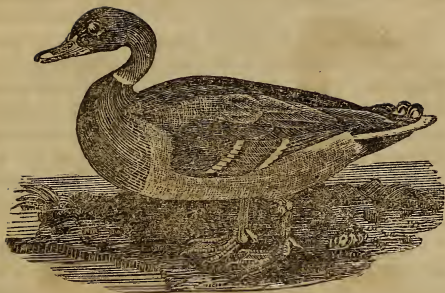
## THE SCOTER.



THIS bird weighs about three pounds, and measures about sixteen or eighteen inches in length. The base of the upper mandible is raised up into a kind of large knob, divided downward by a narrow deep yellow stripe, which is spread round the projecting edges of the nostrils, and extended nearly to the tip. The whole of the close, smooth plumage in this species is black, glossed on the head and neck with purple. The tail consists of sixteen sharp-pointed feathers. In some of the young females the plumage is grey.

In severe winters, the Scoters leave the northern extremities of the world in immense flocks, and disperse themselves southward along the shores of more temperate climates. They are great divers and mostly reside at sea.

## THE MALLARD.



THIS is the Common Wild Duck, and measures twenty-three inches in length and thirty-five in breadth. The head and upper half of the neck are of a glossy deep changeable green, terminated in the middle of the neck by a white collar; the lower part of the neck, the breast and shoulders are of a deep chesnut; wing coverts ash; quills brown; and between these intervenes the spot, common in the duck tribe, of a rich glossy purple with violet or green reflections, and bordered by a double streak of black and white. The under parts are of a pale grey, delicately penciled, and crossed with numberless narrow, waving dusky lines.

The plumage of the female is much plainer. She makes her nest, lays from ten to sixteen greenish white eggs, and rears her young, generally in the most sequestered mosses or bogs, far from the haunts of men, and hidden from his sight among reeds and rushes. To her

young and helpless family, she is a fond, attentive and watchful parent ; and she is known to use the same cunning tricks to mislead the sportsman, as those before noticed respecting the Partridge.

Many and various are the contrivances that have been used at different times, to catch these wild and wary birds. That which possesses a decided superiority over every other method is the decoy ; by which ducks are taken by thousands at a time, while all the other schemes are attended with much watching, toil and fatigue, and are comparatively trifling in point of success. The manner of making and managing a decoy, in England, is as follows :

“ A place is to be chosen for this purpose far remote from the common highway, and all noise of people. When the place is chosen, the pool, if possible, is to be planted round with willows, unless a wood answers the purpose of shading it on every side. On the south and north side of this pool are two, three, or four ditches or channels, made broad towards the pool, and growing narrower till they end in a point. These channels are to be covered over with nets supported by hooped sticks bending from one side to the other ; so that they form a vault, or arch, growing narrower and narrower to the point, where it is terminated by a tunnel-net, like that in which fish are caught in wears. Along the banks of these channels, so netted over, which are called pipes, many hedges are made of reeds slanting to the edge of the channel, the acute angles to the side next the pool. The whole apparatus also is to be hidden from the pool by a hedge of reeds along the margin, behind which the fowler manages his operations. The place being fitted in this manner, the fowler is to provide himself with a number of wild Ducks

made tame, which are called decoys. These are always to be fed at the mouth or entrance of the pipe, and to be accustomed to come at a whistle.

“As soon as the evening is set in, the *decoy rises*, as they term it, and the wild fowl feed during the night. If the evening be still, the noise of their wings, during their flight, is heard at a very great distance, and produces no unpleasant sensation. The fowler, when he finds a fit opportunity, and sees his decoy covered with fowl, walks about the pool, and observes into what pipe the birds gathered in the pool may be enticed or driven. Then casting hemp seed, or some such seed as will float on the surface of the water, at the entrance and up along the pipe, he whistles to his decoy Ducks, who instantly obey the summons, and come to the entrance of the pipe, in hope of being fed as usual. Thither also they are followed by a whole flock of wild ones, who little suspect the danger preparing against them. The wild Ducks, therefore, pursuing the decoy Ducks, are led into the broad mouth of the channel or pipe, nor have the least suspicion of the man, who keeps hidden behind one of the hedges. When they have got up the pipe, however, finding it grow more and more narrow, they begin to suspect danger, and would return back ; but they are now prevented by the man, who shows himself at the broad end below. Thither, therefore they dare not return ; and rise they may not, as they are kept by the net above from ascending. The only way left them, therefore, is the narrow-funneled net at the bottom ; into this they fly, and there they are taken.

It often happens, however, that the wild fowl are in such a state of sleepiness or dozing, that they will not follow the decoy ducks. Use is then generally made of a dog who is taught his lesson. He passes backward and

forward between the reed hedges, in which there are little holes, both for the decoy man to see, and for the little dog to pass through. This attracts the eye of the wild fowl ; who, prompted by curiosity, advance towards this little animal, while he all the time keeps playing among the reeds, nearer and nearer the funnel, till they follow him too far to recede. Sometimes the dog will not attract their attention till a red handkerchief, or something very singular, be put about him. The decoy Ducks never enter the funnel-net with the rest, being taught to dive under water as soon as the rest are driven in.

“ To this manner of taking wild fowl in England, we will subjoin another still more extraordinary, frequently practised in China. Whenever the fowler sees a number of Ducks settled in any particular splash of water, he sends off two or three gourds to float among them. These gourds resemble our pompions ; but, being made hollow, they swim on the surface of the water ; and on one pool there may sometimes be seen twenty or thirty of these gourds floating together. The fowl at first are a little shy at coming near them ; but by degrees they come nearer ; and as all birds at last grow familiar with a scarecrow, the Ducks gather about these, and amuse themselves by whetting their bills against them. When the birds are as familiar with the gourds as the fowler could wish, he then prepares to deceive them in good earnest. He hollows out one of these gourds large enough to put his head in, and making holes to breathe and see through, he claps it on his head. Thus accoutred, he wades slowly into the water, keeping his body under, and nothing but his head in the gourd above the surface ; and in that manner moves imperceptibly towards the fowl, who suspect no danger. At last, however he fairly gets in among them ; while

they, having been long used to see gourds, take not the least fright while the enemy is in the very midst of them, and an insidious enemy he is ; for ever as he approaches a fowl, he seizes it by the legs, and draws it in a jerk under water. There he fastens it under his girdle, and goes to the next, till he has thus loaded himself with as many as he can carry away. When he has got this quantity, without ever attempting to disturb the rest of the fowls on the pool, he slowly moves off again ; and, in this manner, pays the flock three or four visits in a day. Of all the various artifices for catching fowl, this seems likely to be attended with the greatest success, and is the most practised in China."

## THE TUFTED DUCK.



THIS is a plump, round and short shaped bird. The male is distinguished by a pendent crest, overhanging the nape of the neck, two inches in length. The head is black,



glossed with purple ; the neck, breast and all the upper parts are of a deep brown or black ; the under parts are of a pure white ; the wings are crossed by a narrow white bar. The female is of a browner colour than the male, and has no crest.

The habits, manners, and haunts of this species are much the same as those of the Golden Eye.

### THE GARGANEY.



THIS bird is clothed with an elegant plumage, and has altogether a most agreeable and sprightly look. It has been observed in Sweden, Russia and Siberia, and even so far as Kamtschatka, where it is said to be common and most probably breeds. It is common in the Orkneys, and in winter is found in England and in France.

### THE WOOD DUCK.

THIS is the most beautiful bird of its kind in the world. It was named *sponsa*, or the bride, by Linnæus, from the crest which adorns its head, resembling the wedding head-



dress of the Swedish peasant. Its plumage is most beautifully variegated. It passes the summer in the woods but its favourite spots are the borders of ponds and lakes. It nestles in hollow trees, and when taken may be easily tamed.



Among other ducks are THE BLACK OR SURF DUCK, a fine large species peculiar to America; the RUDDY DUCK, of a bright mahogany colour, and found in the Middle States; the RED-HEADED DUCK; the BUFFEL HEADED DUCK called also the Butter-box, common on the sea shores, rivers and lakes of the United States; the PIED DUCK, peculiar to America; and the HARLEQUIN DUCK which is found both in Europe and America. The most noted of the foreign tribes are the MUSCOVY DUCK, or more properly the MUSK DUCK; the BRAZILIAN DUCK and the CHINESE OR MANDARIN DUCK.

## THE PELICAN.



The GREAT WHITE PELICAN OF AFRICA is much larger than a swan. Its four toes are all webbed together; and its neck, in some measure, resembles that of a swan: but that singularity in which it differs from all other birds, is in the bill, and the great pouch underneath, which are wonderful, and demand a distinct description. This enormous bill is fifteen inches from the point to the opening of the mouth, which is a good way back behind the eyes. The base of the bill is somewhat greenish; but it varies towards the end, being of a reddish blue. To the lower

edges of the under chap hangs a bag, reaching the whole length of the bill to the neck, which is said to be capable of containing fifteen quarts of water. This bag the bird has a power of wrinkling up into the hollow of the under chap; but, by opening the bill, and putting one's hand down into the bag, it may be distended at pleasure. It is not covered with feathers, but a short downy substance, as smooth and soft as satin. It is said that this pouch will hold as many fish as will serve sixty hungry men for a meal. Such is the formation of this extraordinary bird, which is a native of Africa and America. It was once also known in Europe, particularly in Russia; but it seems to have deserted those coasts.

The plumage of the Pelican with the exception of the quill feathers of the wings, is of an extremely light and delicate flesh colour, varied only by occasional darker tinges. Except on the temples, which are naked and flesh coloured, the head and upper part of the neck are clothed with a short down. The upper mandible is of a dull yellow in the middle, with a reddish tinge towards the edges, and a blood red spot at its curved extremity; and the pouch is of a bright straw colour.

In the island of Manilla the Pelicans are of a rose colour, and in America they are brown. They are all torpid and inactive to the last degree, so that nothing can exceed their indolence but their gluttony. It is only from the stimulations of hunger that they are excited to labour; for otherwise they would continue always in fixed repose. When they have raised themselves about thirty or forty feet above the surface of the sea, they turn their head with one eye downwards, and continue to fly in that posture. As soon as they perceive a fish sufficiently near the surface, they dart down upon it with the swiftness of an

arrow, seize it with unerring certainty, and store it up in their pouch. They then rise again, though not without great labour, and continue hovering and fishing, with their head on one side, as before.

This work they continue, with great effort and industry, till their bag is full: and then they fly to land, to devour and digest, at leisure, the fruits of their industry. This, however, it would appear, they are not long performing; for, towards night, they have another hungry call; and they again, reluctantly, go to labour.

Sometimes, they are said to assemble in large numbers, to act in concert, and to manœuvre with great skill, for the purpose of securing an abundant prey. This they accomplish by forming a circular line, and gradually narrowing the included space, till the fishes are driven within a narrow compass. They then all plunge into the water at once, on a given signal, fill their pouches with the spoil, and then return to the land, to enjoy themselves at leisure.

Their life is spent between sleeping and eating. The female makes no preparation for her nest, nor seems to choose any place in preference to lay in, but drops her eggs on the bare ground, to the number of five or six, and there continues to hatch them. Her little progeny, however, seem to call forth some maternal affections: for its young have been taken and tied by the leg to a post, and the parent bird has been observed for several days to come and feed them; remaining with them the greatest part of the day, and spending the night on the branch of a tree that hung over them. By these means they became so familiar that they suffered themselves to be handled; and they very readily accepted whatever fish was given to them. These they always put first into their pouch, and then swallowed them at leisure.

With all the seeming indolence of this bird, it is not entirely incapable of instruction in a domestic state. One writer asserts that he has seen one so tame and well educated among the native Americans, that it would go off in the morning, at the word of command, and return before night to its master, with its great paunch distended with plunder; a part of which the savages would make it disgorge, and a part they would permit it to reserve for itself.

"The Pelican," as Faber relates, "is not destitute of other qualifications. One which was brought alive to the Duke of Bavaria's court, where it lived forty years, seemed to be possessed of very uncommon sensations. It was much delighted in the company and conversation of men, and in music, both vocal and instrumental; for it would willingly stand," says he, "by those that sung or sounded the trumpet; and stretching out its head, and turning its ear to the music, listened very attentively to its harmony, though its own voice was little pleasanter than the braying of an ass."

Gesner tells us, that the Emperor Maximilian had a tame Pelican, which lived for above eighty years, and which always attended his army on their march.

It was once believed that the Pelican feeds her young with her own blood; a fable for which we are indebted to some of the early fathers of the church, and which has been perpetuated by poets and heralds. The fact is, that the parent bird feeds the young by pressing its full pouch against its breast, and thus expelling a portion of the contents. The appearance of the bird when in this attitude, with the bloody spot on the end of its bill closely pressed against the delicate plumage of its breast, may, it has been

well observed, readily account for the prevalence of such an idea in the minds of superficial observers.

#### THE FRIGATE PELICAN, OR MAN-OF-WAR BIRD

Is chiefly met with between the tropics. It is the size of a large fowl. The bill is slender, five inches long, from the base of which a dark reddish skin spreads on each side of the head, and a large bag hangs down the throat; the whole plumage is brownish black, the tail is long, and much forked. It is often found above a hundred, and sometimes two hundred leagues from land, and sometimes settles on the masts of ships. Its amazing length of wing, which is not less than fourteen feet, enables it to take immense flights; and, when it is not successful in fishing, it attacks the gulls and other water-fowl, and makes them disgorge the fish which they have taken.

#### THE CORVORANT, OR CORMORANT,

Is about the size of a large Muscovy duck, and may be distinguished by its four toes being united by membranes together; and by the middle toe being toothed or notched, like a saw, to assist it in holding its fishy prey. The head and neck of this bird are of a sooty blackness, and the body thick and heavy, more inclining in figure to that of the goose than the gull. As soon as the winter approaches, they are seen dispersed along the sea shore, and ascending up the mouths of fresh water rivers, carrying destruction to all the finny tribe. They are remarkably voracious, and have a most sudden digestion. Their appetite is forever craving, and never satisfied. This bird is seen as well by land as sea; it fishes in fresh water lakes, as well as in the depths of the ocean; it builds in

the cliffs of rocks, as well as on trees ; and preys not only in the day time, but by night.



Its indefatigable nature, and its great power in catching fish, were, probably, the motives that induced some nations to breed this bird up tame, for the purpose of fishing. The description of their manner of fishing is thus delivered by Faber.



“ When they carry them out of the rooms where they are kept, to the fish pools, they hoodwink them, that they may not be frightened by the way. When they are come to the rivers, they take off their hoods ; and having tied a leather thong round the lower part of their necks, that they may not swallow down the fish they catch, they throw them into the river. They presently dive under water and there, for a long time, with wonderful swiftness, pursue the fish ; and, when they have caught them, rise to the top of the water, and pressing the fish lightly with their bills, swallow them ; till each bird has, after this manner, devoured five or six fishes. Then their keepers call them to the fist, to which they readily fly ; and, one after another, vomit up all their fish, a little bruised with the first nip given in catching them. When they have done fishing, setting the birds on some high place, they loose the string from their necks, leaving the passage to the stomach free and open ; and, for their reward, they throw them part of their prey ; to each one or two fishes, which they will catch most dexterously, as they are falling in the air.”

At present, the Corvorant is trained up in every part of China for the same purpose. “ It is very pleasant to behold with what sagacity they portion out the lake or the canal where they are upon duty. When they have found their prey, they seize it with their beak by the middle and carry it without fail to their master. When the fish is too large, they then give each other mutual assistance : one seizes it by the head, the other by the tail, and in this manner carry it to the boat together. They have always, while they fish, a string fastened round their throats, to prevent them from devouring their prey.” Such was formerly the practice in England ; and as late as the reign



of Charles I. there was an officer of the household who bore the title of a Master of the Cormorants.

## THE SHAG,



WHICH the French call the Lesser Corvorant, is another of the pelican genus. The COMMON SHAG is in length two feet. The general colour of its plumage is black, the belly is dusky, and the head and neck glossed with green. Like the corvorant it builds in trees. The CRESTED SHAG is somewhat less than the preceding, and is less common. The VIOLET and RED-FACED SHAGS are both natives of Kamtschatka; and SPOTTED and CARUNCULATED SHAGS are found in New Zealand. Besides these, there are sev-

eral other foreign species, particularly in Africa, where there are two kinds of Shags not larger than a teal.

### THE DARTER

Is distinguished by a peculiarly long and slender neck, and includes three species.

The **WHITE-BELLIED DARTER** is scarcely so large as a mallard, but its neck is so long that it measures not less than two feet ten inches. The bill is three inches long, straight, and pointed. The neck is covered with downy soft feathers, of a reddish gray: the upper parts of the plumage are dusky black, dashed with white; the under parts pure silver white. It is a native of Brazil, and is extremely expert at catching fish.

The **BLACK-BELLIED DARTER** is the size of the common duck. The head, neck, and breast are light brown; the back, scapulars, &c. marked with stripes of black and white; the quill feathers, belly, thighs, tail, are deep black. The four toes are united like those of the corvoraunt. In the island of Ceylon and Java it sits on the shrubs that hang over the water, and in a country where people are so apprehensive of serpents, it often terrifies the passengers by darting out its long and slender neck, which in their surprise they mistake for the attack of some fatal reptile.

### THE ALBATROSS

Is one of the the largest and most formidable birds of Africa and South America. The largest, which is called the **WANDERING ALBATROSS**, is rather larger than a swan, and its wings, when extended, ten feet from tip to tip. The bill, which is six inches long, is yellowish, and ter-

minates in a crooked point. The top of the head is of a bright brown ; the back is of a dirty, deep spotted brown ; and the belly, and under the wings, is white. The toes, which are webbed, are of a flesh colour.



This bird is an inhabitant of the tropical climates, and also beyond them, as far as the Straits of Magellan, in the South Seas. It not only eats fish, but also such small waterfowl as it can take by surprise. It preys, as the gull kind do, upon the wing, and chiefly pursues the flying fish that are forced from the sea by the dolphins.

The Albatross seems to have a peculiar affection for the penguin, and a pleasure in its society. They are always seen to choose the same places of breeding ; some distant, uninhabited island, where the ground slants to the

sea, as the penguin is not formed either for flying or climbing. In such places their nests are seen together, as if they stood in need of mutual assistance and protection. In the middle, on high, the Albatross raises its nest on heath, sticks, and long grass, about two feet above the surface; and round this the penguins make their lower settlements, rather in holes in the ground; and most usually eight penguins to one Albatross.

There are about three other species of Albatross, all of them smaller than the preceding. The upper parts of the plumage are a dusky blue black, and the rump and under parts white; but what peculiarly distinguishes it is, that the bill, which is four inches long, is black, all but the upper ridge, which is yellow quite to the tip. It inhabits the South Seas within the tropics.

## CLASSIFICATION OF BIRDS.

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The arrangement of birds into orders has for its basis the conformation of the bill and feet, which are adapted to their different modes of living and their peculiar food. Birds of prey are characterized by a hooked bill, and feet armed with strong and crooked nails; climbers have feet calculated for motion on an inclined surface; and web-footed birds are evidently adapted for swimming. Others again have the legs very long and naked for wading; and a large number, with the claws short and feeble, live chiefly on insects. The class of birds has been divided by naturalists into sixteen orders:

### I. RAPACES—*Birds of Prey.*

BILL short, strong; upper mandible covered at its base by a membrane or cere, compressed on the sides, and hook-

ed towards its extremity ; nostrils open ; legs strong and muscular ; toes three before and one behind, armed with powerful claws.

The birds of this order live on animal food ; some taking their prey alive ; some clearing the ground of dead animals ; some living on fishes and reptiles, and some chiefly on insects. The females are always larger than the males. The number of their eggs seldom exceeds four. Among the genera coming under this order are the Vulture ; the Owl ; and the Falcon ; each genus including numerous species.

## II. OMNIVORES—*Omnivorous Birds.*

BILL middle-sized, robust, sharp on the edges ; the upper mandible more or less convex and notched at the point ; feet with four toes, three before and one behind ; wings of medium size, with the quill feathers terminating in a point.

These birds live in flocks, nestling on trees, in the holes of old ruins and towers, or in the clefts of trees or rocks. They live on insects, grain, fruits, &c. and their flesh is generally hard, tough and unsavoury. Among the genera of this order are the Crow, Oriole, Starling, Bird of Paradise, &c.

## III. INSECTIVORES—*Birds which feed on Insects.*

BILL middle-sized, or short, straight, rounded, slightly edged or awl-shaped ; upper mandible curved and notched

at the point ; feet with three toes before and one behind, the exterior united at its base, or to the first joint of the middle toe.

The voice of these birds is distinguished by its harmony and cadence. Most of them chiefly subsist on insects, especially during the breeding season, but many of them have likewise recourse to berries. They have usually, more than one brood in the year, and inhabit woods, bushes, or reeds in which they build solitary nests. Among the genera of this order are the Thrush, Butcher Bird, Flycatcher, Warbler, &c., each including a great number of species.

#### IV. GRANIVORES—*Birds which feed on Grain.*

**BILL** more or less conical, short and strong ; ridge more or less flattened, advancing upon the forehead ; mandibles generally without notches ; three toes before and one behind, the anterior ones entirely divided ; wings of middle length.

The food of this order consists entirely of grain and other seeds, which the strength and form of their bill enables them to free from the exterior husk ; but during the season of rearing their young, insects and larvæ form their chief support. They live in pairs, and are sedentary or migratory, according to the temperature of the countries they inhabit. In winter, or at the period of their migration they congregate in numerous flocks. Most of the European species moult only once in the year. They are very easily tamed ; and the males during the

pairing season assume a brighter and more varied plumage. Among the genera of this order are the Lark, the Titmouse, the Bunting, the Grosbeak, &c., each including a great number of species.

## V. ZYGODACTYLI.

*Birds with two toes before and two behind.*

BILL of various form, more or less curved, or much hooked, and often straight and angular; feet always with two toes before and two behind, and the exterior hind toe frequently reversible.

The distinctive character of this order is chiefly the disposition of the toes in pairs. Many of them chiefly or exclusively live on caterpillars, worms, and insects, but others on soft or hard fruits, and most of them nestle in the holes of decayed trees. Among the genera of this order are the Honey-bird, the Cuckoo, the Toucan, &c.

## VI. ANISODACTYLI.

*Birds with toes of unequal length.*

BILL more or less arched, often straight, always slender; feet with three toes before and one behind, the exterior united at the base to that in the middle, the hinder one generally long, and all provided with long and bent claws.

The birds of this division have more or less the manners and habits of those of the preceding order; for al-



most all of them are climbers and insectivorous. Their tongue is more or less extensible. The character of the order, as implied in the name, is having the toes of unequal length. Among the genera of this order are the Nut-hatch, the Humming Bird, the Honeysucker, &c.

## VII. ALCYONES—*Halcyons*.

**BILL** middle sized or long, pointed, almost quadrangular, and either slightly arched or straight; tarsus very short; three toes before, united, and one behind.

The birds of this order fly with great celerity. Their movements are quick and abrupt, and they neither walk nor climb. They seize their food on the wing, and often from the surface of the water, and nestle in holes on the banks of rivers. They moult only once a year; and the females and young are not very dissimilar from the males and mature birds. Among the genera are the Bee-eater, the Kingfisher, &c.

## VIII. CHELIDONES—*Swallows*.

**BILL** very short, much depressed and very wide at the base; the upper mandible curved at the point; legs short; three toes before, either entirely divided, or connected at the base by a short membrane, the hinder often reversible; claws much hooked; wings long.

The flight of these birds is rapid and abrupt, their sight piercing, neck short, throat wide, bill broad, and often gaping for the reception of insects which constitute their

only food. Among the genera are the Swallow, the Goat-sucker &c.

### IX. COLUMBÆ—*Pigeons*.

**BILL** of moderate dimensions, compressed; base of the upper mandible covered with a soft skin, in which the nostrils are perforated, the tip more or less curved; feet with three toes in front, quite divided, and one behind.

This order contains but one genus, but is numerous in species, and these very widely dispersed over the world. Pigeons are generally of an elegant form, of beautiful varying plumage, and gentle manners. The female lays but two eggs, which are incubated alternately by both sexes. The young are fed by the parent birds with food from their crop which has undergone maceration. The food of pigeons consists of grain and seeds, rarely fruits. They drink with a continued draught.

### X. GALLINÆ—*Poultry*.

**BILL** short, convex, in some genera covered by a cere; upper mandible bending from its base or only at the point; nostrils lateral, covered by a membrane naked or feathered; tarsus long; three toes before, united at their base by a membrane, hind toe united to the tarsus above the junction of the anterior toes.

The birds which form this order are of a bulky and heavy form. The greater number have short wings, which render them incapable of distant or long continued flight.

Their principal food consists of grain and seeds, though some add to these roots, herbs, and the buds of trees, and most of them devour insects. Their nest is in most cases placed on the ground, among bushes or herbage, without much art. Their eggs are numerous, and the young, when first excluded are covered with soft down, and are immediately able to follow their parent and feed themselves. They scratch the ground with their feet in search of food and have the peculiar habit of rolling themselves in the dust. Among the genera of this order are the Peacock, the Cock, the Pheasant, the Grouse, &c.

## XI. ALECTORIDES.

**BILL** shorter than the head, or the same length; strong, robust; upper mandible convex, and often hooked at the point; tarsus long and slender; three toes before and one behind.

The genera which compose this order, are divided into those which frequent the open country and those which inhabit the banks of streams. The former inhabit deserts, where they are continually in pursuit of reptiles and lizards; and the latter feed chiefly on worms and insects. Among these genera are the Golden-Breasted Trumpeter, the Horned Screamer &c.

## XII. CURSORES—*Runners*.

**BILL** middle-sized, or short; legs long, naked above the knee; and with only two or three toes, directed forwards.

The birds which compose this order live always in the fields and most frequently in desert places, remote from woods. They feed on herbs, seeds and insects. Some few of the species are incapable of flight, and others fly little and near the ground. They run, however, with great celerity, not only when pursued, but habitually, and differ, in this respect, from the greater number of the waders, which walk by measured steps. All of them capable of rising from the ground stretch their legs backwards in flight. Among the genera of this order are the Ostrich, the Cassowary, the Great Bustard, &c.

### XIII. GRALLATORES—*Waders*.

BILL of various forms, but most frequently straight, in the form of an elongated cone, and compressed, more rarely depressed, or flat; legs slender, long, more or less naked above the knee, three toes before and one behind, the posterior ones jointed at the level of those before, or more elevated.

The birds included in this order are almost all semi-nocturnal, stalking along the margin of the sea, lakes, or rivers. Those which have a hard bill feed on fishes and reptiles; those with a soft or flexible bill on worms and insects. All are furnished with long wings, suited to the extensive migrations which they undertake at stated seasons, and for which purpose they associate in numerous bands, the young and the old travelling separately. They extend their legs behind when they fly, and their walk is slow and measured. They are divided into two sections; those which have three toes only, forming the first, and

the others with a hind toe, forming the second. Many of them enter into the water without swimming, but they are capable of swimming, and even of diving when occasion requires. Among the genera of this order are the Sanderling, the Crane, the Heron, the Stork, the Flamingo, &c.

#### XIV. PINNATIPEDES.

##### *Birds with pinnated feet.*

**BILL** middle-sized and straight ; upper mandible slightly curved at the tip ; legs of medium size ; tarsi slender or compressed ; three toes before and one behind, with rudiments of webs along the toes ; hind toe united anteriorly to the tarsus.

The birds included in this order unite in large bands for their periodical voyages, which they perform by flight or swimming. They swim and dive with equal facility, and stretch their legs backwards in flight. In general there is no very marked difference between the male and the female. Their food consists of insects, worms, fish and occasionally of vegetables. Their body is covered with an abundant down ; and their plumage is close and glossy. Among the genera of this order are the Coot, the Grebe, &c.

#### XV. PALMIPEDES—*Web-footed Birds.*

**BILL** of various forms ; legs short, placed more or less backwards ; the anterior toes partially or wholly connect-

ed by webs, and in some families, all the four toes united by one membrane.

Most of the species belonging to this numerous order may be termed sea-birds. Their plumage is thicker, closer, and better furnished with down, than that of other birds. Some of the order both swim and dive, others only swim or skim over the surface of the sea, but never plunge under water, while a few are almost habitually resident in the ocean, repairing to the shore only to breed. They breed in holes, among rocks, or sometimes on the stony beach. The flesh of most of the species is eatable, and that of some is highly prized. Among the genera of this order are the Tern, the Gull, the Petrel, the Albatross, the Pelican &c.

## XVI. INERTES—*Lazy Birds.*

BILL of different forms; body probably thick, covered with down and feathers with distant webs; legs placed much behind; tarsus short; three toes before, divided to the base; hind toe short; claws thick and sharp; wings ill adapted for flight.

In this order are two genera of birds little known, the Southern Apteryx and the Dodo.

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Fossil remains of birds are known under the name of *Ornitholites*. They are more rare than the fossil remains of quadrupeds, either from being more recent productions

of the animal kingdom, or because the bones of birds are more susceptible of decay. Such remains as are found are also less easily referred to known genera; for the parts which in birds serve to characterize the different families, as the mandible and the claws, have in most instances lost their form, from the compression and rupture to which they have been subjected.

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## PARTS OF A BIRD.

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The external parts of a bird, which require to be noticed and distinguished by the naturalist, are the head, neck, body, wings, tail and legs; which parts again are subdivided more or less minutely, according to the taste of various writers on the subject. The following outline engraving is to assist young naturalists in naming these.



- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. MAXILLA SUPERIOR, the upper mandible of the bill.</p> <p>2 MAXILLA INFERIOR, the lower mandible of the bill.</p> | <p>3. CULMEN, the ridge of the bill.</p> <p>4. GONYS, the angle or point of the under mandible.</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



5. DERTRUM, the hook of the bill.
6. NARES, the nostrils.
7. MESORHINIUM, the upper ridge of the bill.
8. LORUM, the bone, a naked space at the base of the bill.
9. MENTUM, the chin.
10. FRONS, the forehead.
11. VERTEX, the crown of the head.
12. SINCIPUT, the hinder part of the head.
13. CAPISTRUM, the face.
14. SUPERCILIUM, the eye-brow.
15. REGIO OPTHALMICA, the region of the eye.
16. TEMPORA, the temples.
17. GENA, the cheek.
18. REGIO PAROTICA, the parts above the ear. :
19. COLLUM, the neck.
20. CEROIX, the hinder part of the neck.
21. NUCHA, the nape of the neck.
22. AUCHENIUM, the under nape of the neck.
23. GUTTUR, the throat.
24. GULA, the gullet.
25. JUGULUM, the lower throat.
26. PECTUS, the breast.
27. EPIGASTRUM, the stomach.
28. ABDOMEN.
29. HYPOCHONDRIA, the sides of the abdomen.
30. VENTER, the belly.
31. CRISSUM, the vent.
32. DORSUM, the back.
33. INTERSCAPULUM, the space between the shoulders.
34. TERGUM, the middle of the back.
35. UROPYGIUM, the rump.
36. HUMERI, the shoulders.
37. FLEXURA, the bend of the wing.
38. AXILLA, the arm-pit.
39. ALA, the wing.
40. TECTRICES, the wing coverts.
41. TECTRICES MAJORES, the largest wing coverts.
42. TECTRICES MINORES, the smallest wing coverts.
43. TECTRICES MEDIÆ, the middle wing coverts.
44. REMIGES, the rowers.
45. PRIMARIÆ, the quills.
46. SECUNDARIÆ, secondaries.
47. CAUDA, the tail.
48. RECTRICES, the tail feathers, divided into,

49. **INTERMEDIAE**, the middle, and,  
50. **LATERALES**, the sidefeathers.  
51. **TIBIA**, the thigh answering to the leg in quadrupeds.  
52. **PLANTA**, or **Pes**, foot, divided into  
53. **TARSUS**, the shank, answering to the heel in quadrupeds.  
54. **ACROTARSUM**, the shin.  
55. **HALLUX**, the great toe.  
56. **DIGITI**, the toes.

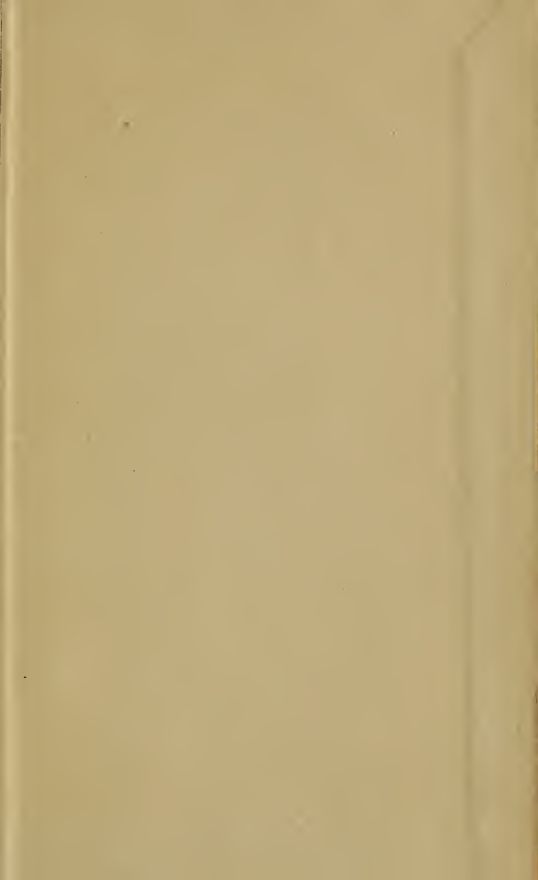


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